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Contents :

	Page		Page
EDITORIAL :	35	"TIV" INDEX.— <i>A duet by F. R. Perkins and J. Schwartz</i>	37
The Congressional Library Building.		THE PROPOSED NEW YORK FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.	44
The Public Document System.		CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING (<i>Illustrated</i>)	50
Library Interest in New York.		LIBRARY ECONOMY AND HISTORY	58
New York Free Public Library Scheme.		LIBRARIANS	60
Perkins's and Schwartz's "Duet."		GIFTS AND BEQUESTS	61
Delegates to the Conference.		CATALOGS AND CLASSIFICATION	64
Notices.		BIBLIOGRAPHY	68
THE DUT-DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION AND THE "RELAT-			

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THE INDEX TO PERIODICALS,

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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

VOL. II.

FEBRUARY, 1886.

No. 2.

C. A. CUTTER, *Editor*.

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THE report of the Joint Committee of Congress on the Congressional Library, in favor of immediately proceeding with the new building, is of so much interest to librarians that we have printed it in full elsewhere, with a picture of the proposed new building and the diagrams of the ground plans of both stories. There has been much difference of opinion in library circles as to the best form of building; there has been no difference of opinion as to the importance of building at once. The present library is overcrowded to the last degree; many of the books are rapidly being ruined, and there is an enormous increase each year not only in the copyright books, but by the accessions incident to any live library. It is earnestly to be hoped that Congress will take immediate steps to push forward so important and necessary a work.

THE Singleton bill in regard to the publication and the distribution of public documents, which we printed in full last month, meets boldly one of the most important questions of Government reform and of library interest. It is almost too comprehensive in its plan, and a bill dealing separately with the questions of the documents and of the administration of the Government Printing Office would perhaps be more likely to suc-

ceed. We should be glad to have the practical criticisms and suggestions of librarians, through the LIBRARY JOURNAL, as to this bill, which has a number of omissions as well, possibly, as mistakes. Probably the best thing, all in all, that could be done for the libraries would be a provision for selecting from Government publications the most generally useful and important, which could be sent to libraries not public depositories, and not able to give shelf room to all government issues, and yet sure to find such a selection of great use to their readers. Senator Hoar's bill to include in the distribution to the depositories the *Congressional record* and Departmental publications has, after some unfriendly debate, been referred to the Committee on Printing. We hope, nevertheless, that it has a fair chance of passage. Librarians should do all that they can with their own Congressmen to help it on.

THE interest in libraries in New York City of late is as remarkable as its previous indifference was inexplicable. The newspapers are full of library discussions. The hopes of the Historical Society, the promise of a public library, the performance of the Free Circulating Library, the claims of the other circulating but not free libraries, and the demerits of the libraries that are free but not circulating, are considered daily. And, as might be expected, there is diversity of opinions and wishes. It is to be hoped that the discussion will only stimulate interest and not prevent action. Sometimes a great movement halts long while its forwarders disagree. Witness the copyright bill, where English authors, English publishers, American authors and American publishers, all impatient for international copyright, are in a fair way to get nothing, because they cannot agree what to ask for. Witness the Congressional Library, which would have been built long ago if there had been only one possible site. But it is hardly to be feared that any such disaster attends the library interests in New York. Whether the Public Library scheme succeeds or not, the poor will be

served by the Free Circulating Library. If the scheme fails, the Free Library will go on multiplying its branches, and extending its wonderful good work, and attracting to itself the money which in America is sure to flow toward any charity that has proved itself honest and effective. If the scheme succeeds only moderately, as will be the case unless it secures more funds than it asks for at present, the two libraries will work side by side, supplementing one another. If the Public Library scheme be a complete success, no one, we believe, will rejoice more than the trustees of the Free Circulating Library. Their desire is to have the poor supplied with good reading, and so it be well done, they will not care by whom it is done.

THE plan of the projectors of the New York Free Public Library is set forth fully elsewhere in the bills presented to the Legislature, and in the interviews with its supporters as well as with its opponents, which we clip from the New York daily press. The feeling of the library interest is strongly in favor of a system of branch libraries as meeting the actual demands of readers, rather than for a costly building in which books are to be a second consideration and readers a third. Nevertheless, it is true that a great central library in New York would do much toward establishing a thorough system for the free circulation of books, and that it would be followed sooner or later by the establishment of branch libraries in the districts where books are most needed. Therefore, if the question is between the present scheme and no library at all, the library interest will scarcely do well to oppose it altogether. A more important question is whether or not the new library would be under the control of politicians, and be merely a pretext for a job. There is every reason to believe that Mr. Sanger is entirely honest and philanthropic in his own support of the enterprise, but in seeking to obtain "influence" by including a number of politicians in a list of incorporators largely made up otherwise by gentlemen who will be figure-heads and nothing more, there may be a wide door opened.

MR. PERKINS's and Mr. Schwartz's "duet," the first part of which is printed elsewhere, is a somewhat savage attack on Mr. Dewey's decimal Classification, which implies a demand for perfection rarely reached in bibliographical or

other mundane enterprises. Mr. Dewey has perhaps invited attack upon himself by claiming an exclusive originality on many points where he might gracefully have acknowledged the work of others, as he has done in another case, in announcing himself as the "founder and editor of the LIBRARY JOURNAL" (when advertising the first five volumes of the Journal in his Library Bureau Catalogue), to the exclusion of others equally concerned. But in his Classification, as in many other ways, he has done a service to library progress which cannot be easily overestimated, even though it has not reached perfection. The argument for close classification on the shelves may be thought to have been pushed to an extreme; on the other hand, almost any scheme in libraries or elsewhere becomes an absurdity on so complete a *reductio* as that to which Mr. Perkins and Mr. Schwartz have treated Mr. Dewey's scheme. Errors of omission and of commission there must be in any work of the kind. The "duet" will be concluded in the next issue, which will also contain a reply to his critics from Mr. Dewey. Our readers will probably see without having it specifically pointed out to them that many points made against the scheme are in the nature of hypercriticism so as scarcely to need reply; but they would be much interested in an answer from Mr. Dewey which should overlook the small criticisms and devote itself to the main questions at issue.

ONE item in the treasurer's account in the 6th report of the New York Free Circulating Library we should like to see repeated in every library report next year: "To expense Librarian to Am. Lib. Association, \$22.70." It would not be found the least profitable of any library's expenditures.

W. I. FLETCHER, Amherst College Library, Amherst, Mass., gives notice that he wants indexers for the following magazines, beginning January 1886: *Academy*, *Athenæum*, *Contemporary*, *Month*, *New Englander*.

THE Treasurer of the A. L. A. will send extra copies of the Papers and proceedings of the Lake George Conference to any member on receipt of 50 cents a copy.

THE DUI-DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION AND THE "RELATIV" INDEX.

A DUET, BY F. B. PERKINS, OF SAN FRANCISCO, AND J. SCHWARTZ, OF NEW YORK.

I.

MR. MELVIL DEWEY, in the enlarged edition of his Decimal Classification for libraries, claims priority of invention in certain arrangements, and undertakes to prohibit under penalty of prosecution the use of something which he alleges is protected by either copyright law or patent law—for his language is ambiguous.

Mr. F. B. Perkins introduced, in his "Rational Classification," for the first time in a classification, a system of cross-references*; and he also introduced the plan of entering separately books for and against any debated subject. Mr. J. Schwartz, in 1871, introduced, for the first time in a classification, a uniform division of large departments of knowledge into ten subdivisions; and he also introduced the plan of numbering books alphabetically by means of a table. These features Mr. Dewey has imitated in his new edition, without any acknowledgment. This double fault of using other people's ideas without giving credit, and trying to frighten them from using what is just as much theirs as his, justifies a searching examination of the merits and demerits, and also the originality, of the scheme which he is recommending in this manner.

I. CLOSE CLASSIFICATION.

A principal claim of Mr. Dewey's is, that his system admits of what he calls "close classification"—i.e., the placing together all the books on a given topic, so as to accommodate students. This convenience is, of course, only afforded in libraries where readers are allowed to go to the shelves. There are, however, important libraries and classes of libraries where this is not and cannot be allowed; and thus the claim, even if true, would be significant only to a limited extent. But the thing itself is impossible except with exceptions, for these reasons:

* [Not for the first time. Dr. A. A. E. Schleiermacher, in his "Bibliog. System d. gesammten Wissenschaftskunde" (preface dated Aug. 4, 1847, book published 1852), frequently refers from one subject to its related subordinate, co-ordinate, or superordinate subject.—ED. LIB. JNL.]

1. On account of the existence in all libraries of "parallel" collections or smaller libraries that circumstances render convenient to keep separate from the other books. Such special libraries are Rare and Curious Books, Juvenile Works, Special Bequests (given on the condition of being kept separate), Pamphlets, Reference and Circulating Departments, and lastly, if books of different sizes are shelved separately, each size will form another "parallel" library. While all these separate libraries may not be needed in any one library, there is hardly a collection that will not find it practically convenient to have at least one if not several of them. Now, as each of these libraries may duplicate subjects contained in the others, or in the general collection, the existence of only one of them forbids "all" the books on a given subject from being shelved together.

2. If it be determined, at all hazards, to neglect these practical divisions and to make the shelves high enough to accommodate elephant folios and 64's, "close classification" is met by the difficulty that books are not written to fit an ideal classification. We may determine, on paper, that all the travels in Switzerland or Italy should be in one place; but people who have travelled in these countries will sometimes have the bad taste to print both journeys in one volume. Now, a book can be in one place only, yet here is an instance where it ought to be in two. The number of cases where a book discusses two or more subjects is considerable, and every such case is an unanswerable refutation of the claim of "close classification." Under this head must be also added works accidentally or designedly bound with others, and the fact that some subjects are treated of in works that must be shelved elsewhere. One of the best lives of Mahomet is in Gibbon; some of the most authoritative treatises on a subject are in encyclopedias; and some of the best lives of individuals are in general collections of biography.

3. The process of infinite division, which is

implied in close classification, separates, at each stage of its progress, parts from their wholes, and thus actually defeats the very purpose for which it is made. It is perfectly clear that if we divide animals into birds, mammals, etc., and then go on subdividing the mammals into their various orders and species until we reach the lowest possible point, that we must look under each of our divisions if we wish to get "all" the books on one of the species. Each successive division simply intensifies the difficulty of keeping all the books on a subject together.

4. This process of division, if carried out to its logical result, ends in a *reductio ad absurdum*. If we want to keep every distinct subject by itself, we are obliged to provide a separate place in our scheme for every variety of animal, vegetable, and mineral; for every king that ever reigned; and for every author that has written a book. Mr. Dewey gives us some faint glimpses of what such a scheme would look like. In his class 839 he has resuscitated certain obscure and long forgotten Dutch, Flemish, and Scandinavian writers, and has immortalized them by giving each one a separate niche in his temple of fame. Here the ghosts of these defunct worthies may sit in solitary grandeur during the endless æons, for there is small danger they will ever be crowded out by books. Now, if Mr. Dewey had been consistent, and had worked out his scheme on the same magnificent scale, he would have needed fifty million heads in place of the paltry fifty thousand that he has given us by way of instalment.

5. Finally, the whole idea of close classification rests on a transparent fallacy. It takes it for granted that books can and must be classified on one principle only—namely, according to their subject. This is a complete mistake. The half of every well-proportioned library—and the greater half at that—is not arranged by subjects at all, but on an entirely different principle—viz., that of form. Poetry, Essays, Drama, and Novels should be scattered all over the library if the subjects they treat of is to determine their classification. Many a novel is simply a moral treatise in disguise, and many a valuable biography or treatise is hidden away in some collection of essays. Where would "Othello" go in a classification by subjects alone? Possibly with other works on Jealousy; but as we fail to find this word in Mr. Dewey's index, we cannot undertake to say where such books would be shelved by him. As no sane librarian would think of classing Homer's *Iliad*, Shakespeare's

Hamlet, or Dante's *Divina Commedia* otherwise than by their dramatic or poetical form, we respectfully maintain that the idea of "close classification" is built on a foundation of sand.

Having shown the absurdity of the claim by these general considerations, we will now prove our charges by a concrete example. Take, for instance, Hieroglyphics. To study this subject it is necessary to use:

1. Books expressly on the general subject (under Philology, Mr. Dewey's 419).
2. Books on Egyptian hieroglyphics alone (his 493).
3. Some general philological treatises (somewhere among his 400s.).
4. Some travels in Egypt, Central America, Mexico, etc. (his 916, 917, etc.).
5. Histories of Egypt and perhaps of some other countries (his 932, etc.).

Similar cases are abundant. To claim or to undertake a "close classification" in any scholarly sense of the term of the literature of such subjects *on the shelves* is either ignorant or fraudulent. The notion is nonsense and the thing is impossible. On no system of shelving can all the works on a given topic be brought together. The catalogue can bring together the references to all such works; the shelving cannot bring together the books themselves. It is the business of the catalogue, and it alone can do it.

2. SOME EXAMPLES OF MISCLASSIFICATION AND MISPLACEMENT OF TOPICS.

So much for Mr. Dewey's doctrine. But even though his doctrine were true, his practice is so faulty that he is not a trustworthy teacher on the subject. We proceed to enumerate a sufficient number of cases to maintain our charge without, however, any attempt to exhaust his supply of them:

1. There is an obvious and very large misjudgment within his foundation division of ten classes. Nobody who examines his scheme can fail to be struck by his unnatural and troublesome plan of numbering Geography (with Travels) as one tenth of History, for it requires just as much space, or nearly so, as History. He would reply, no doubt, Put an additional digit to the geographical subdivisions; and the rejoinder is, Then you lose another point in the economy of marks. The remedy is obvious and complete. If it was necessary to give 80 sections to History, then Geography should have the same number, and some of the unimportant subdivisions,

notably in Philosophy and Fine Arts, ought to be suppressed to make room for them.

We proceed to other cases in no particular order—but their disorder is no less charming:

2. Elocution is under Rhetoric, and Rhetoric, along with "Collections" and "Treatises," forms a subdivision of "Literature, general works." Now, Rhetoric is either matter of education or matter of criticism; and books on it may accordingly go, some to Mr. Dewey's 370 and some to his 801. None of them belong where he puts them, under 808. The primary phase is the educational one, but it is not under his Education. It is absurd to claim the merit of shelving books of one kind together by themselves, when, as in this case, educational and critical works are jumbled along with books of completed literature.

3. English Composition is kidnapped in the same cruel manner. It is the study of writing correct English, and belongs with Grammar and Prosody under English Language. Mr. Dewey puts it under Oratory.

4. There is no separate place for Anecdotes, of which there is a whole literature, but they are hidden in the dark and unwholesome jungle where classifiers secrete whatever they don't understand, and then call the whole "Miscellany." In classifying, the more miscellany the less understanding.

5. Brahmanism and Buddhism are together. As well join Trinitarianism and Unitarianism, or Mohammedanism and Idolatry.

6. Fresco painting is in one place (247.5) oddly joined with Religious painting, and then referred to Painting; and in another place is put not under Painting at all, but under Decoration. Not to pause over the implied plety of frescoing in particular, it is quite as queer to make it a mere decoration. This is an original valuation (for instance) of Michael Angelo's Last Judgment. He and Raffaello, it would seem, were mainly decorators. Mr. Dewey would not have dared say that of Michael Angelo to his face.

7. Poland is made part of Austria. She is no less part of Prussia and of Russia, but she should have a separate place. Ireland has.

8. Insanity, catalepsy, and some other diseases of the brain or nervous system, are under Mental philosophy, instead of being where they belong, with other diseases, under Medicine. As well put them where the Apostles would have put them, under Diabolic possession, in Theology.

9. There is a place for "General periodicals"

and "General societies." There are no such things.

10. Canon of Scripture, Inspiration, and Prophecy are lumped together. An alleged main advantage of the scheme being to keep separate each individual class of books, this is an extraordinary contradiction of it. Mr. Dewey should at least have put History of Creeds in the same lot; for an irritated theologian bumping against books on the Canon and on Inspiration when he only wanted those on Prophecy would be in sore need of the damnatory clauses out of the Athanasian creed, even if he should not desire to utilize the curse of Erulphus.

11. Freemasonry is only implied in Secret societies. It has a large literature of its own, and should have a separate place as much as Dipropargyl or Griepenkerl.

12. George Washington is made a topic as to his presidency only. Of the three main parts of his life, this was the least interesting.

13. Juvenile Books are scattered about by subjects. This would work no great harm in a college library, but in a public circulating library it would be a serious blunder, wasting time and labor. All the Juvenile Books should be together and subdivided, if there are many of them.

14. The small community of the Albigenes, long since extinct, has three places—viz., with Persecutions, Religious sects, and Secular history. It should stand under the second of these, with cross-references from the others.

15. "Texts" at 418, under Comparative philology, needs definition. It seems to be synonymous with Polyglots. What such are there?

16. At 423 we are told that a dictionary of two languages should be classed under the less known of the two. Who is to know whether Gujerati or Canarese is "less known"? And suppose there are more than two languages, as in Reiff's Russian-French-German-English dictionary? The best rule is to class a dictionary of more than one language under the first-named language.

17. At 252 nine separate heads or sections are devoted to literature "about" nine different sorts of sermons. We defy Mr. Dewey to find any such books, and if he could, they all belong together under 251, "Homiletics and preaching" (of which title the second term is superfluous).

18. Fairy tales are put in 823 with Fiction. If written merely to amuse children, they should go to Juveniles. Such of them as are Folk-lore (e. g., Grimm's and Croker's) should go with

other books on the subject of fairies. And these should be classed not where they are, under "Customs," but (along with some other items improperly put there) under "Mythology."

19. "Apologetics against the scientists" (239.8) duplicates part of "Religion and science" (215). Books on the opposition of Religion and science should all be at 215, arranged on two sides, and with a cross-reference from 239.8.

20. Under "Devotional. Practical" (240) there is some confused work. "Practical" does not belong here but at 250-9, where are classed Charity, Preaching, Schools, and such really practical instrumentalities. Again, it would puzzle a casuist to distinguish between "Didactic" (241) and "Hortatory" (243); and "Meditative" and "Contemplative" (242); and what is "Devout miscellany" (244)? What distinct meaning can be given to "Evangelistic" (243)? Reference has been made to the miscegenation of Fresco painting and Religious painting at 247.5. It is like dividing trees into tall trees and oak trees, or books into octavo books and German books.

21. "Gipsies, Nomads, Outcast races," are put together (397), and defined "People without nationalities, who do not coalesce with the ruling people among whom they live." Now, the Bedouins, the Kirghis, the Turcomans, and others—in fact, most "Nomads," answer no such description. These three at least are in fact "ruling people" themselves.

22. Scandinavian literature is thrust away under "Minor Teutonic." Bismarck might have done this. But we imagine that few Scandinavians would accept such a place. And it would be bad classifying if they should.

23. Criticism on painting, sculpture, architecture, poetry, fiction, drama, etc., should go with those subjects, just as their history should. Mr. Dewey mixes them up under *Æsthetics*. This is the opposite of "close classification." *Æsthetics* is the proper term for general treatises on the theory and practice of criticism.

24. "Philosophical systems" (140) and "Modern philosophers" (190) are repetitions. It is a mistake, for instance, to have Pessimism in one place and Schopenhauer's philosophy in another; or Idealism in one place and Berkeley's philosophy in another.

25. "Quotations" should have a separate place, but are pitchforked into the "English miscellany."

26. Under Ancient History (930) we have China

(932). What separate works are there distinct from general histories? Under 935 Chaldaea, Assyria, and Babylonia are classed under "Medo-Persian." This will be found rather startling by ethnologists. Babylonia (935.4) follows Media, and is succeeded by Persia (935.5). Unless this order is based on expert knowledge not yet made public, it conflicts somewhat with recognized views on the subject. We have always thought that Persia succeeded Media, and that Assyria was followed by Babylonia.

27. The system claims to be "logical," and to bring together the most nearly allied subjects. We are aware that there is much room for difference of opinion as to what subjects are allied, but we should like to know what the connection is between "Sociology" and "Philology," and between the latter and "Natural science."

28. Mr. Dewey seems not to know how to arrange the United States public documents—a very important and valuable department of any great library. There is a well-considered and sufficient scheme, however, used by the United States Government, which might have been transferred, if no better source offered, from its place in Mr. Perkins's classification.

3. SOME EXAMPLES OF SUPERFLUOUS TOPICS.

This must suffice for instances of misplacement of topics. An error more remarkable and more obtrusive is the extraordinary flood of superfluous and unsuitable items which overflow Mr. Dewey's Classification and Index. These amount to more than two thousand in number, being about one fourth of the whole. They seem to have been inserted in consequence of the fundamental misconception already mentioned—the confounding together of the offices of a catalogue and of a shelf arrangement. A catalogue should have an entry for each subject or topic, whether a class or an individual, on which there is a book in the library, and, if possible, on which there is a part of a book or even an article. But in a classification system for shelving books, a place should be given only to each *class* of individuals on which there are books. Individuals themselves, and even individual species, are excluded by this rule, unless so important as to form what may be called a whole subject with a literature. Such, for instance, are Shakespeare, Dante (not in Mr. Dewey's index at all), and Napoleon I. among men; Horse and dog among animals. But it is a complete blunder to bloat a scheme of classification by forcing into it names of obscure

persons, places, scientific, natural, or artistic objects, and literary works. We will enumerate in detail most of the improper items in the letters A and B of Mr. Dewey's index, in order to show how thick they stand; and only add a few from the rest of the alphabet. A very moderate share of general information will enable any one to enlarge this list at his leisure and to his full dissatisfaction.

First, names of places for history (implying that there are separate histories of them): Abruzzo, Acarnania, Adana, Adirondacks, Admiralty islands, Aetolia, Aguascalientes (and the other territorial subdivisions of Mexico), Aidin, Ain, Allier, Ardèche, and all the other names of the French departments (why not the names of the ancient Egyptian nomes?), Alaska, Albania (in Asia), Aleppo, Aleutian islands, Anglesey, Angola, Angora, Apulia, Arcadia, Archangel, Arctic regions (history, remember), Argolis, Argyll, Ariana, Armagh, Ashango land, Ashantee, Assam, Assiniboia, Athabasca, Austral islands, Baalbec, Baltic provinces of Russia, Baroda, Basilicata, Belfort, Benguela, Binghamton (why not dump in the whole United States post-office directory?), Bithynia, Black Forest, Bukowina, Colchis, Commagene (but not Adiabene, Arachosia, nor Edessa), Cyclades, Dacia, Darfur, Khodavendjkyar, Papua.

Second, names of persons: Abelard, Adams, J., Adams, J. Q., Addison, Adolphus (an Emperor of Germany), Ælfric, Æschylus, Æsop, Agricola (a German poet), Agrippa (the Medieval one), Albert I. and II. (German emperors—why not dump in the names of all the kings and queens of the world?), Alberus (German poet), Alciphron, Alcott, L. M. (why not her father and uncle?), Aldrich (novelist, not logician), Alexander II., Alfonso XII. (why not the other eleven?), Alsop, G., Alsop, R., Amadeus, Amory, T., Anacreon, Anaxagoras, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Andocides, Andreä, Anselm (not the great theologian, but some obscure personage in German fiction), Antisthenes, Apollonius Rhodius, Aquinas, Aratus, Arblay, Arbuthnot, Arcesilaus, Archilochus, Aristippus, Aristophanes, Arndt, Arnim, Arnold (viz., Matthew, no other), Arnulf, Arthur (not king, but ex-president), Auerbach, Auersperg, Austen, Avicenna, Babrius, Baille, Bale, J. (why not all the English bishops who have been authors?), Barclay, A. (apparently named under "English satire" because he translated Brandt's "Ship of fools"), Barlow, J. (for that obsolete old smooth-

bore "The Columbiad," probably), Behn, Bernadotte (why not Murat and all Napoleon's marshals?), Birch-Pfeiffer, Bodenstedt, Bodmer (why not all the German poets?), Brown, C. B., Brown, Tom (not of Rugby, but of vulgar old English "humor"), Browne, C. F. (and why not all the Browns, Brownes, and Smiths?), Burroughs (John—but Stephen is far funnier), Butler, S. (why not Joseph and a lot more?), Byles, Crowne, Diodorus (not Siculus, but Cronus), Dwight, Timothy (as poet?), Faliscus (Gratius), Griepenkerl, Grimmelshausen, Gryphius, Hopkinson, Kinkel, Niemsch v. Strehlenau, Opitz von Boberfeld, Orford (this is for Horace Walpole?), Read (T. B., but not Charles Reade), Sandys, Statius, Stoddard, Whitehead, Wigglesworth.

Third, topics other than persons and geographical names: The most brilliant example here is the insertion of Amherst college (Mr. Dewey's own *alma mater*, but we believe not another college or university is mentioned, not even Columbia, his *alma mater*, nor Harvard, Yale, Cornell, etc. It he inserts one he should insert all, not only the 400 or so in the United States, but all the rest; and the special schools too). Also (and consider whether there can be books on such subjects or many of them): Abdication, Admission (to school; why not to college, church, library, and everything else that can be entered?), Ætna (a poem so named, not the volcano; and why not Thanatopsis, The Heathen Chinese, Upidee, and all the other poems with names?), Affidavits, Afghani language (Pushtoo is the name of it), Airy's theory (in geodesy; why not all the theories, hypotheses, and "laws" that have names?), Alcyonaria, Allegretto, Allegro (separating the libraries on these two subjects is indeed "close classification!"), Alligation, Alodium, Alt-azimuth, Altruism, Amids, Amines, Ammoniums (it looks as if the index to a chemistry had been dumped in), Analogous projections (in geometry), Analogies and correspondence (in Natural theology; why not in other senses?), Ancestry (not in Genealogy, but in Mental Science?), Andante (but, whew! neither Dante nor Mercadante), Andesite, Andronicus (a Latin drama), Anharmonica, Anhydrides, Anhydrous silicates, Anhydrous sulphates, Animism (in Metaphysics, but not in E. B. Tylor's important and valuable sense), Anomodontia, Anthracene, Antifederal party, Antimonates, Antimonides, Antimony (more close classification), Antiphonal readings, An-

tiphonal choral service, Antipatharia, Anura, Apatite, Apogee (of the moon only), Acquivascular respiration, Arabesques (*i.e.*, a kind of piano music; but not Rondos nor Arabesque decoration), Argillite, Arrearages, Arsenates, Arsenic ores, Arsenides in inorganic chemistry, Arsenides in mineralogy (but not Arsenic), Asteroidea, Automata (not in Mechanics, but in metaphysics!), Autonyms, Backgammon, ethics of (but no ethics of dominoes or mumble-the-peg), Hampton lectures, Barbarism *vs.* the church, Bass clarinet (but not treble nor tenor), Bassethorn, Bassoon, Beets (but no parsnips, nor turnips), Belt, equatorial (but no Belt, champion's), Berlier sewerage system, Beryllium, Bessel formula (four items of Bessel things, but not Bessel himself), Binding of books ("closely classified" in three separate places), Bombardon (this, reader, is a musical instrument), Brooms, Burnings (custom of war), Burnings (student life, but no Killing or Plundering as customs of war), Chief librarian (Mr. Dewey being one, but no Assistant librarian), Chromium, Cobalt, Columbates, D'amore (there is or was a musical instrument called a viol d'amore), Drum (in mining engineering), Dipropargyl (why not "Pentamethyldiamidodithiodiphenylamindiiodomethylate" and "sich"?), Discriminates (in algebra), Duplicates, sale of (not pawnbrokers', but in libraries), Dacites, Exemplaria typographia, Janitor's department in libraries (why not elsewhere?), Manholes in sewers (why not in boilers?), Onychophora, Orchestrion, Ozocerite.

Now, not to discuss this mass of absurdity in detail, take one sample of the total lack of sense which it shows, in the contrast of names of persons put in and those left out: To begin with, inventors and men of science have been almost if not altogether omitted. Yet Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Linnaeus, Cuvier, Herschel, Ericsson, Le Verrier, mark epochs in human history at least as much as any author, certainly as much as Barlow and Boker. Barlow, Budgell, Griepenkerl, Grimmelshausen, Gryphius, Hopkinson, Niembsch von Strehlenau, Opitz von Hoberfeld, Sandys, Stoddard, Whitehead, and Wigglesworth are poets—if insertion in Mr. Dewey's index can make them such, but Dante, Ariosto, and Tasso are not! If Wigglesworth is to be celebrated, why not "Pop" Emmons, the Sweet Singer of Michigan, and the Minstrel Maiden of Mobile? Charles Brockden Brown and Mrs. Burnett are novelists, but not

Charlotte Brontë, Mrs. Gaskell, nor Mrs. Oliphant. Burdette and C. F. Browne are funny enough to be topics, but not Josh Billings nor G. H. Derby, incomparably the funniest of all American humorists. "Beethoven's overtures" are admitted; why not his sonatas and symphonies? "Wagnerian music" is in; why not Bach and Mozart?

In short, no principle of selection seems to have been followed in picking out names to admit or names to exclude, unless, it might almost be said, to choose the wrong ones. And this is just as true of places and things as of persons. The list as made is as heterogeneous—beyond the proper part, of course—as if it had been prepared up to a certain point, and then a couple of thousand more second-hand names had been bought by the quantity, or got together by Chinese cheap labor. The utter wrongness of the transaction is evident when it is remembered that if these two thousand useless names ought to be admitted, certainly more than several hundred thousand others have an equal title to the honor. Of course all those equally obscure with the names now in have the same right to be in. This would be indeed terrible. Let us be thankful that the classifier stayed his thunder in mid-volley. Mr. Dewey is a good man, but his book would have weighed 200 pounds.

4. SOME EXAMPLES OF OMISSION OF TOPICS.

Notwithstanding the immense number of improper topics with which Mr. Dewey has inflated his work, he has not been consistent either with his own principles or with right principles. He has not only left out innumerable terms which, according to his own views, should have been put in, but he has even omitted a good many which on right principles ought to be in. A few of these are: America (other than the United States), discovery of; American literature, drama, fiction (and the other divisions of it); there is not even a rag-bag of "American miscellany;" Anti-Christ; Amateur theatricals; Animal psychology; Ancient régime; Animal plagues; Apiary; Applied mechanics; Applied chemistry; Arrowhead inscriptions; Aracidae; Art-needlework; Athletic training; Authorship; Assassins (Oriental sect); Automata (mechanical); Barbarisms (in language); Banditti (biography); Banners; Basque language; Bayonet exercise; Beauty (personal); Benefactors' lives; Billiousness; Bills of exchange; Bodily strength; Boards; Book-selling; Breach of promise;

Bread-making; Business arithmetics; Cadets; Campaigns; Casting; Cartesianism; Chemical physics; Christian antiquities; Chiromancy; Chinese literature; Christian architecture; Christian education; China ware; Church vestments; Charcoal drawing; Chromatics; Civil procedure; Civilization (in general); Civil service; Climate (hygiene); Classical geography; Composers' lives; Complete works (literary); Coach building; Cognition; Commercial arithmetic; Constellations; Corpulence; Country seats; Commonplace books; Conduct of life; Criticism, Biblical; Crewel work; Culture and religion; Cuneiform inscriptions; Cutlery; Danish literature; Dante; Defence of religion; Dravidian languages; Deer stalking; Drawing-room amusements; Dumb, The; Dutch literature; Dumb-bells; Eating (hygiene); Eastern or East Indian archipelago; Economic chemistry; Ecclesiastical architecture; Ecclesiastical music; Egyptian mythology or religion; Embankments; English biography; English drama, grammar, poetry, etc.; Epilepsy; Engineers' lives; Ensigns; Eternal salvation; Evil spirits; Fall of man; Fanaticism; History of civilization; Jacobite church; Language of flowers; Maronites, Modern Jews. History of; Nabatheans; Syrian church. This list might be extended to several hundreds more, as we have confined ourselves in selecting examples of omissions almost entirely to the letters A to E. A hasty glance over the rest of the index has revealed—by their absence—many important topics that could be added here.

There is one point on which Mr. Dewey fails in fulness, notwithstanding the general overflow of superfluity which encumbers his scheme. Some of the words in his classification are left out of the index, which ought to contain every word in the classification scheme, and a fair allowance of synonyms besides.

These arguments and specifications show that Mr. Dewey is not a trustworthy classifier, since, with "hundreds of assistants" and in thirteen years of contriving and revising, he has been able to do no better than this. Even if "close classification" is possible, Mr. Dewey cannot (thus far) do it.

5. SOME EXAMPLES OF "PERSONAL EQUATION."

A point of more importance is the display of bigotry which, with surprising ingenuity, Mr. Dewey has managed to inject into his scheme. He has (for instance) classed Spiritualism among

"Delusions." Without saying whether it is a delusion or not, we do say that it was none of Mr. Dewey's business, as a library classifier, to stigmatize it as such. If it was, it was at least equally his duty to set a similar mark on Mormonism—supposing that he does not believe in it—which, however, is put in a perfectly respectable position. And so about other things in which he may not believe. Again, he puts Arians among "heresies." If the Arians were heretics the Unitarians are; and why does he not give them a bad name too? Further, "Supernaturalism" is referred to "Delusions." This is unorthodox; nothing is more characteristic of orthodox Christianity, whether Catholic or Protestant, than a firm belief in supernaturalism. And a classification system ought not to be unorthodox or orthodox either. There are, however, other pretty distinct signs that Mr. Dewey is an orthodox person, and a pretty dogmatic one. His classification ought not to give any ground for a judgment on this point either way.

6. SOME TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS.

There are too many errors of the press (as well as too many of other kinds) for a work so assuming and magisterial. At *Clarinet* in the index we have these three items:

Clarinet, wind instrument	788.6.
feeling, ethics	177.5.
system, suffrage	324.2.

It is true that most clarinet playing—i.e., bad clarinet playing—produces in the hearer sentiments of a pronounced ethical character; and that blowing is an important agency in operating the suffrage system; and yet these applications are so forced that we charitably conclude for the lesser fault, and reckon the references as errors of the press.

"Watts" (015 note) was not a bibliographer. He versified the psalms, and wrote hymns, etc. The bibliographer was Robert Watt, M.D.

A rapid glance along a few consecutive pages of the Index, taken at random, gives the following misprints: Egyptan, Elasmobranchiri, Loir, Equiretæ, Estramadura, Fairy tales 39 (instead of 393.4), Genius (no reference), Hadramant, Hallogen, Homilectics. There is about one error of the press to a page—at least ten times more than there need be or should be in a work of this character: a bibliographical work for libraries, and in the very index itself. It is possible, however, that these apparent errors are some new specimens of the "revised" spelling in which Mr. Dewey's preface is written.

THE PROPOSED NEW YORK FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

We print below the text of bills Nos. 72 and 74, presented in the Assembly, on January 27th, by Mr. Cantor, to provide for the incorporation, erection, and maintenance of a Free Public Library in the city of New York. We omit the text of bill No. 73, offered by Mr. Cantor, in connection with the above, because it simply provides for the removal of the reservoir on Fifth Avenue, between Fortieth and Forty-second streets.

[No. 72.] *An act to provide for the erection, payment, and maintenance of a building for a Free Public Library in the city of New York.*

SECTION 1. The board of commissioners of the department of public parks in the city of New York, is hereby authorized and directed, with the concurrence of the board of estimate and apportionment, to construct, erect, and maintain, in and upon that portion of public land now occupied by the reservoir, situated in the city of New York, on Fifth Avenue, Fortieth and Forty-second streets, or in any other public park, square, or place in said city, a suitable fire-proof building for the purpose of establishing and maintaining therein a free public library, instituted under the direction of the corporation known as the New York Public Library, incorporated by chapter — of the laws of the State of New York, of 1886, at an aggregate cost of not exceeding the sum of \$750,000.

SEC. 2. The comptroller of the city of New York is hereby authorized and directed to create and issue in the name and on behalf of the mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of New York, a public fund or stock, to be denominated "The Public Library Stock," to such an amount, not exceeding the sum of \$750,000, as shall be certified by the resolution of the said board of commissioners of public parks, with the concurrence of said board of estimate and apportionment to be necessary for the erection of said building for the public library. Such stock or fund shall be redeemable within 20 years from the date thereof, and the moneys realized therefrom shall be applied only to the purposes mentioned in the first section of this act; provided, however, that, in the event of the existence of any provision of law which shall operate to prevent the issuing of said bonds in manner aforesaid, then, and in that event, and for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this act, the comptroller of the city of New York, upon the requisition of the board of commissioners of the department of public parks, with the concurrence of said board of estimate and apportionment, is hereby authorized and directed in each of the years 1887, 1888, and 1889 to raise the sum of \$250,000 by the issue of revenue bonds; and the board of estimate and apportionment is hereby authorized and directed to cause to be included in the taxes to be levied and raised upon the real and personal estates subject to taxation in the city of New York in the year

1887 a sum sufficient to pay the revenue bonds in this section directed to be issued in the last-before mentioned year, with all interests due or to become due thereon, and in the year 1888 a sum sufficient to pay the revenue bonds in this section directed to be issued in the last-before mentioned year, and in the year 1889 a sum sufficient to pay the revenue bonds in the section directed to be issued in the last-before mentioned year, with all interest due or to become due thereon, and such sum in each of said last-before mentioned years the board of aldermen of the city of New York are hereby empowered and directed to cause to be raised according to law, and collected by taxes upon the estates real and personal subject to taxation in said city and county.

SEC. 3. The plans for the erection, building and equipment of said building for the public library shall be prepared by the trustees of the corporation denominated "The New York Public Library," and shall be approved by the board of estimate and apportionment.

SEC. 4. The board of estimate and apportionment shall annually include in its final estimate the sum of \$40,000 which shall annually be raised and appropriated to said corporation, known as "The New York Public Library" toward the maintenance of said public library.

SEC. 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

[No. 74.] *An act to establish and to incorporate a Free Public Library in the city of New York.*

SECTION 1. Chester A. Arthur, John T. Agnew, Felix Adler, Daniel F. Appleton, Christopher C. Baldwin, Fordyce Barker, Henry R. Beekman, Samuel L. M. Barlow, Levi M. Bates, Jonas M. Bundy, Frederick A. P. Barnard, Julius Bien, Cornelius N. Bliss, Isaac H. Bailey, Matthew C. D. Borden, William L. Cole, Michael Coleman, Henry Clausen, Jr., Edward Cooper, Andrew Carnegie, Howard Crosby, Abram J. Dittenhoefer, William A. Cole, Hugh N. Camp, John L. Cadwalader, Frederick W. Devoe, Noah Davis, Abraham Dowdney, Daniel Draper, Charles P. Daly, Patrick F. Dealy, David L. Einstein, Franklin Edson, Charles H. Eaton, George Ehret, William M. Evarts, Roswell P. Flower, Hamilton Fish, Gustav Gottheil, Elbridge T. Gerry, William R. Grace, Andrew H. Green, Edwin L. Godkin, Alonzo B. Cornell, John D. Crimmins, James C. Carter, Henry L. Hoguet, Charles Hauselt, Myer S. Isaacs, William M. Ivins, George Jones, John D. Jones, Walter T. Johnson, John Keenan, Henry Knickerbocker, Charles P. Ketterer, Theodore M. Lillienthal, Edward Lauterbach, Alfred L. Loomis, Lewis Lyon, Edward V. Loew, Charles P. Miller, Edwin A. McAlpin, Randolph B. Martine, Jordan L. Mott, Orson D. Munn, Lewis May, Joseph J. O'Donohue, Henry A. Oakley, Joseph Pulitzer, Abram S. Hewitt, Oliver Hoyt, Edward Patterson, Alexander Reitlinger, Adolph L. Sanger, Francis M. Scott, Carl Schurz, Will-

iam L. Strong, Algernon S. Sullivan, Samuel M. Schafer, Oscar S. Strauss, John Straiton, Jesse Seligman, Lispenard Stewart, William Steinway, Samuel J. Tilden, John P. Townsend, Charles H. Tenney, Horace K. Thurber, Hubert O. Thompson, William L. Turner, S. Oakley Vanderpoel, Albert Van Santvoord, William H. Wickham, Walter H. Webb, Salem H. Wales, Stephen A. Walker, David G. Yuengling, Jr., and such other persons as may hereafter be associated with them in the manner prescribed by the by-laws of the corporation hereby created, are declared to be and constitute a body corporate and politic by the name of "The New York Public Library."

SEC. 2. The object of said corporation shall be the establishment and maintenance, on the most liberal and well-considered basis, of a free public library, which shall forever stand as a monument of the homage paid by the people to self-culture, and to furnish free reading to the people of the city of New York by the system of a free circulating library with reading-rooms, and such other means as to the trustees of said corporation may seem suitable and proper.

SEC. 3. The number of trustees shall be twenty-two, in which number shall be included the mayor of the city of New York, the comptroller, the president of the board of aldermen and the president of the department of public parks. As soon as practicable after the passage of this act, the persons hereinabove designated as the incorporators of the New York Public Library shall meet for organization and proceed to elect from their number eighteen of said persons as trustees of said corporation. The persons so elected as trustees shall immediately thereupon divide themselves by lot into three classes, those of the first class to hold office for one year, those of the second class to hold office for two years, and those of the third class to hold office for three years. At the next annual meeting of the corporation, and annually thereafter the successors of each outgoing class of trustees shall be chosen for the term of three years by the members of the corporation in such manner as the constitution may direct, and such trustees shall in all cases hold office until their successors are elected.

The said mayor of the city of New York, the comptroller, the president of the board of aldermen and the president of the department of public parks shall be members of said board of trustees with all the rights and powers of their associates in the board.

SEC. 4. The said board of trustees shall organize themselves as a board by electing from their number a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, who shall hold such offices until their successors shall be elected.

SEC. 5. The said trustees shall make such rules and regulations for their own government and for the government of said corporation, and in relation to the officers and employés appointed by them, and fix and enforce such penalties for their violation, as they may deem proper and expedient. They shall have the general care and control of the said public library together with

the building or buildings to be erected for its purposes, the fixtures and furniture thereof, and the expenditure of all moneys annually appropriated therefor.

SEC. 6. The said trustees shall annually present to the board of aldermen in the month of May, a report containing a statement of the condition of the library, the number of books that have been added during the year, with an account of all the receipts and disbursements, together with such information or suggestions as they may deem expedient.

SEC. 7. The said trustees shall appoint a suitable and competent person as librarian and also such assistant librarians and other persons as they may deem necessary to properly conduct the business of said library. The persons so appointed shall hold their respective offices under the direction of, and be subject to such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by said trustees.

SEC. 8. In case of the death, resignation, neglect or refusal to act of any of the officers or trustees of said corporation, the other trustees thereof may at any regular meeting elect by ballot a trustee or trustees, or officer or officers in the stead of such trustees or officers, who shall hold their offices until the next annual meeting of said corporation, and until others shall be elected in their place.

SEC. 9. Said corporation may purchase and hold or lease any real and personal estate necessary and proper for the purposes of its incorporation, and is authorized and empowered to take by purchase, grant, gift, devise or bequest, subject to all the provisions of the laws relative to devises or bequests by last will and testament.

SEC. 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. DEWEY.

From the N. Y. Mail and Express.

"MR. SANGER's movement for a public library," said Mr. Dewey, "is the second movement. Several years ago such a movement was started in the city and it has grown in strength and popularity year by year. It was launched in a small way, with the idea that, when its vast usefulness and comparative inexpensiveness were demonstrated, public support and public money would be attracted to it. And so the New York Free Circulating Library was started in a building in Bond Street, with 10,000 volumes. So successful was it, and the work accomplished was so splendid, that Oswald Ottendorfer came forward and put up another building, and furnished it with 10,000 volumes. This is located on Second Avenue, near St. Mark's Place. Mr. Andrew Carnegie, of Pittsburg, offers to erect still another library building and to stock it, as soon as money for its support can be assured; and I believe that another wealthy man has made a similar offer. The Free Library, with its 10,000 books, attained last year a circulation of over 200,000. The Mercantile, with something like 200,000 books, circulated 125,000.

"The way in which these people have gone to work to furnish free books seems to me the

only proper way. All want to do the greatest good to the greatest number. I do not think, in case the Legislature votes \$1,000,000 for public library purposes, that the money, or any considerable part of it, should be put into a costly building. It might be an architectural ornament to the city, and do very well to point out to visitors, but such a building wouldn't educate the people. To use the money in this way would be beginning at the wrong end. Supposing for a moment that we had no public school system, the natural order of procedure would be to get teachers together and hire a place—any place—to teach. As the money available for educational purposes accumulated, school buildings would be put up; in course of time high schools would be established, and finally a university would be endowed and the building be erected as the crown to the work. Certainly, it would not be the wise course to erect the university building at the start. And so it does not seem the proper thing to erect a costly public library at first, and let the great mass of the public wait for the necessary branches. The Johns Hopkins University was started, not in an architectural way, but by getting the ablest and most learned faculty of professors and instructors it was possible to get, and the institution grew and flourished. When Trinity College got some money, they put it into a handsome structure, and when they moved into it, they found that they had not the funds to pay professors or to run the college. In the matter of a public library, this serious mistake should certainly be avoided.

"A large central library would be, it must be remembered, too, practically inaccessible to the great majority of the people for whose especial benefit it was established. People of moderate means, and, of course, poor people, cannot spare the time nor money necessarily expended in getting from remote quarters of the city to a central point. This is peculiarly true of New York, which opens out like a fish pole. But even in Boston, which is more compact and circular in its geography, the necessity for branches has been made clear, and branches of the Public Library have accordingly been located. It will be seen, therefore, that the building of one large library structure limits the usefulness of the library at the very outset, and a limited class derive benefit from an institution bought and paid for with the money of the public. By all means let us have the large central library, if that is the only form in which the facilities can be secured. Experience teaches us that the branches will and must come in time. But it is also true that if the branches are located and established, the central building will in course of time be erected, and this, without question, it would seem, is the wisest plan.

"See what could be done with \$1,000,000 in the way of establishing the branches I speak of. Ten branches could, with close economy, be run for \$50,000 a year. The New York Free circulating library has done that. A million dollars will yield that income. So that with that money the branches could be supported in-

definitely. But how to get the money for the books at the start? Hold the \$1,000,000 for two years and the \$100,000 interest will purchase the ten libraries of 10,000 books each. I will admit that it would be very close figuring to run ten libraries for \$50,000 a year. But six or seven could be run with comparative ease. And this view of the matter should not be lightly disregarded. The rents of houses in the proper neighborhoods would be low and the cost of conducting a small library is not at all in proportion with the cost of conducting a large one. As books increase in numbers, the cost of keeping them increases, not in an arithmetical ratio, but in a geometrical ratio. The expenditure for lost books at these circulating libraries is surprisingly small. At the library in Bond Street, only five or six books were missed last year, although the circulation passed the 200,000.

"Another point," continued Mr. Dewey, "is that New York is in no need of collections of valuable reference books, such as would be deposited in a large public library. The books are all in the city, and the worst that can be said is that they have not the handsome architectural home which a certain class of public-spirited citizens dream of. Between the Astor Library, the college library here, the Society Library and two or three others, a student can find what he wants, perhaps better than in any other city in the country. I know that the Astor Library is conducted under certain restrictions and its usefulness hampered, but I think that the keener and more progressive spirit of the day in library matters is reaching the institution, and that it will not be long before these restrictions will be thrown aside, and the library will become a public library in a better sense of the term than it is now. It certainly should be kept open throughout the year and during the evenings. It is a magnificent collection of books and it should be made as free to the public as possible. At the college library here we keep open fourteen hours a day, from 8 o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock in the evening, and the rooms are open the year round. We have not opened on Sunday yet. But that matter is under consideration. The library is just as free to students outside the college as it is to those inside of it. I have made the regulations pertaining to visitors as light as possible. An introduction from any one known to me is all that is required. I simply want to be assured that the person desiring the facilities of the library is a gentleman and not a professional book thief. With access such as every student in New York has to reference books, it is perfectly clear to me that the free public library which New York wants is the library subdivided into the branches that I speak of."

INTERVIEW WITH MR. SANGER.

From the Commercial Advertiser, Feb. 3.

MR. ADOLPH L. SANGER, in reference to the proposed New York public library, said this afternoon in reply to the following question:

"Why are there so many politicians among the list of incorporators?"

"There are not six politicians among the one hundred incorporators. Are Chester A. Arthur, C. P. Daly, R. P. Flower, John L. Cadwallader and many others politicians? I challenge any one to look over the list and point out more than six politicians in it. I do not call public men politicians, and I am sure the incorporators will not feel honored by being thus denominated. I certainly do not call myself a politician. The few of them who were put on the list were put there to secure the use of their influence in making the institution a success. I see in the *Commercial advertiser* that some of the incorporators, who have been interviewed, say they know nothing of the plan. Of course they don't. Does any one suppose that I would make an ironclad plan to submit to 100 of the most prominent gentlemen in the city? The incorporators are to meet and to formulate their own plans and to organize. I have my ideas, but I don't know whether their ideas will coincide with mine. All I know, and all they know, is that we need a public library. How it shall be conducted must be decided by the directors. I did not use any unfair means, nor did I misrepresent anything in getting these gentlemen to become incorporators. I simply sent them a circular containing the resolution passed by the board of aldermen, adding that their names had been suggested to me. I did not send any list of the names I had secured."

"Would not a board elected by a number of politicians have a tendency to involve the library management with political schemes and patronage?"

"I again assert that the men named as incorporators are the best and most public-spirited men in the city. As far as political schemes are concerned, I emphatically declare that nothing of the kind could be introduced. The patronage would not amount to anything. There would be only three or four positions to fill, and the bill says that the librarian and his assistants shall be competent men."

"What occasion is there to spend a large sum in building a new foundation when the New York Circulating Library, already in successful operation, furnishes ample foundation upon which to build?"

"The Circulating library is a good thing as far as it goes, but its scope is not wide enough. It only supplies a limited district."

"Would it not be wiser to appropriate money to that institution than to the support of a new one?"

"I think not. Why should money be appropriated to eighteen gentlemen in New York to conduct a private library? To be a success a public library in New York should be public in every sense of the word."

"Why does not the list of incorporators include names of men accustomed to dealing with questions of this kind, and who have practical knowledge of a successful library?"

"For the simple reason that in such a case the cry of 'job' would have destroyed all the

good we intend to do. Suppose some librarians had been among the incorporators. Every one would have said: 'Oh! its a scheme to get a job for so-and-so and so-and-so.' As it is, no such thing can be charged. The bill says that the trustees shall appoint competent men as librarians and assistants. There are twenty-two trustees to be elected from the incorporators. Then such men as Dr. F. A. P. Barnard, Hamilton Fish and Judge C. P. Daly know something of books."

"Is it wise to destroy the work done by the Circulating and the Apprentices' libraries and to impair their usefulness for the sake of making a new experiment?"

"Dr. Kernochan, a director of the Circulating library, had a talk with me on this subject. He thought his idea was the best, and I thought ours was the best. I assert that we will not destroy the work of any existing free library, but rather add to it without expense to them. We could easily designate these small libraries as branches of ours. This I have no doubt we would do."

"Is not the building of an expensive structure a waste of money in any case, and a beginning at the wrong end in this case?"

"There should be a central building for a library, for the purpose of keeping valuable books, manuscripts and the like. There are many citizens who would give to a public library, but who would not contribute to a private institution. Then New York should have a building of this kind of some architectural beauty. The plan of appropriating money to the Circulating library would only be more expensive in the end."

"Is it necessary to assume, as you do in a letter to the *Commercial advertiser*, that 'any influences have been at work to induce that journal to plead for a practical and rational, rather than an impractical and irrational, application of public money to the great and desirable end of providing adequate library facilities for the people of New York?'"

"The *Commercial advertiser* has implied that I have had personal motives for promoting this matter. I have had none but the public good. This is the first time in my life that I have been suspected of such a thing. It has said that I have secured the names of men as incorporators by misrepresenting things. I have the letters from every one of the incorporators, which I will gladly present. These answers will show that the writers were in favor of a public library maintained by public money. As Judge Daly said: 'We have waited too long for public gifts.' In the case of Mr. Fish, I will say that I wrote to him asking him to become an incorporator. He replied that his health was not good, that he had too many societies on his hands already, and that he must decline because he could not become an active incorporator. I wrote again and he said that if I desired his name, understanding that he could not actively engage in the work, I was at liberty to use it. He being one of our best-known citizens, I used his name. I think there is nothing more to say."

A SYMPOSIUM OF INTERVIEWS.

"My idea of a free circulating library in New York," said ex-Alderman Adolph L. Sanger, on January 14, "is to have one large building as a sort of depository for the books. The building should be provided with every safeguard, and be absolutely fireproof. It would be impracticable to have ten or fifteen buildings in the city for libraries, and the money could not be provided. If necessary, the public library could have branches for distribution, just as private libraries have, and books could be ordered and exchanged at these branches. I regard the plan presented at the meeting of the Library Club yesterday as clearly unfeasible, for the reason that, in having so many libraries, we would not have a single good one."

"With me," said Mr. Sanger on January 23, "the appointed work, though arduous, has been a labor of love, and I am glad to see that the public interest has been awakened in the matter, as indeed it should be; for if our idea is carried into execution, as I have no doubt it will be, the result will be an incalculable benefit to every man, woman and child in the community."

"The library is to be founded on the broadest possible basis. Instead of closing our doors at the very time when the majority of people are anxious to avail themselves of a little mental recreation, our motto will be the 'greatest good to the greatest number.'"

"Then, again, the people are clamoring for bread, and it has been charged that we only intend giving them stones. The charge is based on the fact that in the bill about to be presented we name \$750,000 as the sum desired to be employed for building purposes, which is claimed to be an exorbitant amount. It should be known, however, that this is the maximum figure, and if a suitable building can be erected for a less sum it will be done. Probably the library when completed will be opened on Sundays. A variety of means, and very plausible ones, too, have been suggested as to how the books are to be procured, and I have no doubt that when we are ready to occupy the building the books will be there without any extra expense. A number of plans have been suggested as to how the \$750,000 could be raised. It will probably be taken out of the constantly accruing surplus fund, so that, though the benefits of the library will be open and palpable to all, the burdens of its erection will be felt by no one."

"Friends of some of the other libraries in the city would seem to be of the opinion that we are anxious to injure the institutions to which they are severally attached. Their fears are groundless; but we do intend to remove from New York the stigma which at present hangs over it of having fewer facilities for the free education and mental recreation of the people than any other city of any size in the Eastern States. Baltimore, for instance, which has generally been considered Southern and somnolent, possesses two libraries which are unsurpassed in the world. The Peabody Library is quite as much sought after as the Astor Library as a place of reference, and is open from an early morning

hour until late at night. Baltimore also has the new Pratt Library, with its many branches and magnificent endowment. . . .

"We intend having a great number of branch libraries. I think, however, that Mr. Dewey would admit it to be the wildest folly to have, say, ten branch libraries. Without a central establishment the expense occasioned by the duplication of much sought books under this plan, or rather want of plan, would be enormous. We intend, of course, to introduce the delivery system, by means of which books applied for at one branch will be supplied from the central library in a few hours."

"The principal trouble with the new free library scheme," said the *Commercial advertiser* on February 2, "seems to be that little or nothing is known of the promoters' intention beyond the fact that they intend to spend a lot of money on a large building. Even that does not seem to be known to some whose names are connected with it. The list of incorporators has provoked a great deal of comment, and the remark is frequently heard: 'What do the names of all these politicians on the list signify?' Unquestionably it contains a number of excellent names—names of representative men; but there is a curious lack of any whose practical experience with libraries would give them the experience which so large an undertaking as the founding of a New York City library demands."

"A reporter for the *Commercial advertiser* endeavored to ascertain just what significance there was in the good names in the list of incorporators. He found that for the most part these have been given simply on the general principle that anything that will help to educate the people would be a good thing, and in so far as their names could forward such an effort, they were very willing to have them used. Few, if any, appear to have more than noticed that it was an attempt to found a library."

"Mr. James C. Carter said when asked about it this afternoon: 'I gave my name quite willingly. If the promoters of an attempt to found a city library thought it would do them any good, they were welcome to it. I did not examine the scheme, and know nothing about it. I saw the other day in one of the papers that they intended to ask the legislature for a large appropriation. That I am entirely opposed to. I think that private benevolence and enterprise is fully equal to the emergency, and I should be very much opposed to any request for help from the government.'"

"Mr. Dewey, librarian of Columbia College, in speaking of the list of incorporators, said: 'President Barnard's name was obtained simply by representing to him that such and such prominent men had signed; and as the general idea of a city library is good, he readily gave it. I expect that most of the names which were representative were got in that way.'"

"Mr. Hugh N. Camp is the only incorporator who seems to have any idea of the plan, which, by the way, he highly favors. His conversation with the reporter is interesting."

"Is it not strange," he was asked, "that there

are no names of librarians, men of experience in such matters, found on the list?

"Oh, no," he replied; "Mr. Sanger purposely avoided asking them, knowing that they would be sure to have some fixed ideas on the subject. He considered it better to get men who could be inclined one way or the other, and who would, therefore, be able to agree on some one good scheme."

"Do you not find that there is a good deal of opposition to the idea of building a large central building, when the need of branches is so great?"

"Yes, there is some opposition, but there can be no doubt that we need a large building for a library that would be worthy of the city. Mr. Sanger, I believe, does not contemplate having any branches. I, however, agree with you that branches would be desirable. But we should first have a centre. My idea would be to have the branches in connection with the public schools. The scholars might carry the books to their homes."

"Would not such branches as those of the New York Free Circulating Library be a good thing?"

"Oh, no; these are very expensive. It would take an immense amount of money to conduct a sufficient number, together with such a central library as we want."

"Mr. Camp continued that he thought the best men among the board of incorporators would meet and formulate some good scheme. He did not think it would be controlled by the politicians."

"Another of the incorporators, who did not wish to have his name used, said: 'I asked Mr. Sanger if it was not very foolish to put in the names of so many politicians, and told him that it would cause a great deal of opposition in this city. He replied: "Oh, that is all right. I know they will hurt us in the city, but they will help us at Albany."'"

"Whatever has been Mr. Sanger's motive in promoting this scheme," said the *Commercial Advertiser* on Feb. 4, "he has displayed much shrewdness in obtaining his list of incorporators. The general proposition that this city needs a library is one which no man of prominence would care to deny. Knowing this, Mr. Sanger has asked these gentlemen to aid him by indorsing with their names a plan to establish a city library. Details were neither given nor required. Nevertheless, a bill, of which to all intents and purposes these incorporators are the sponsors, has been presented to the Legislature, involving an expenditure of nearly \$1,000,000."

"Mr. Hamilton Fish said: 'Mr. Sanger wrote to me asking me to let him use my name to indorse a scheme for establishing a city library. I replied that, as I had retired from all active participation in matters of that kind, I should be unable to do anything, and must, therefore, decline. He replied, saying that he had obtained the names of a large number of well-known men, and asked that he might be allowed to use mine. I, therefore, wrote a second time, saying that if the name alone was of any use to him he was welcome to it, but that I could do nothing.'"

"Do you know anything about the scheme?" he was asked.

"No; I only know that it is an attempt to found a city library, and that appears to me to be a good thing. In regard to the matter of carrying out the plan, I do not know what the projectors intend to do. I have read the suggestions in the *Commercial Advertiser* about establishing branches, and I must say they struck me with great force. It is an excellent idea, and, as you say, is admirably illustrated by the Bond Street library, of which I was a trustee for some time."

"Dr. Howard Crosby is also down on the list of the incorporators of the new library. His well-known enthusiasm in all matters of this kind led the reporter to go to him, believing that he would be sure to know all about the scheme to which he had lent his name. But the result was the same. 'I know nothing more than the papers have told me,' said the doctor. 'Mr. Sanger asked me to give my name as one of the incorporators of a scheme to establish a free public library in this city. I did so very willingly. I consider it an admirable idea, and deserving of all support. I know nothing about the plans. For my own part, I believe in having a large central library from which branches can go out. I trust the promoters will meet with success.'"

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE CITIES COMMITTEE.

ON February 11 the Senate Cities Committee heard arguments against the Sanger New York Public Library bill. Judge Holland, J. F. Kernochan, Melvil Dewey, librarian of Columbia College; Mrs. R. J. Cross, Mrs. Kernochan, and Miss Townsend, trustees of the Free Circulating Library, were present in opposition. Judge Holland argued that the Astor Library answers all need for a reference library; that the proposed site at Forty-second Street and Fifth Avenue would be out of the way of poor people, and the library would become merely a club house for the rich. He favored small, distributed branches of libraries instead of a central library, asserting that this plan was less expensive, and that for the \$750,000 asked for in the Sanger bill twenty branch libraries could be built.

Mr. Dewey said that President Barnard and the other incorporators named in the Sanger bill would resign if the bill was enacted, as they favored a branch library system. To build and equip the Sanger Library on the Forty-second Street Reservoir site will cost \$2,000,000. The interest (\$100,000) on this sum would sustain ten branch libraries, doing ten times as much good. If the city would guarantee to maintain such branches, ten public-spirited citizens of New York, like Oswald Ottendorfer, could be found to build and equip such libraries.

The opponents of the Sanger bill, at the Committee's request, agreed to formulate their views in a bill to be sent to Albany at once.

THE CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING.

THE following is the text of the bill introduced in the House of Representatives, January 5th, 1886, by Mr. Singleton, authorizing the construction of a building for the accommodation of the Congressional Library :

BILL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a fire-proof building, for the accommodation of the Library of Congress, shall be erected east of the Capitol, and either between B Street north and East Capitol Street and First Street east and Second Street east, or between B Street south and East Capitol Street and First Street east and Second Street east, and as the commission hereinafter provided shall determine ; and the construction of said building, substantially according to the plan submitted to the Joint Select Committee on Additional Accommodations for the Library of Congress, by John L. Smithmeyer, in the Italian Renaissance style of architecture, with such modifications as may be found necessary or advantageous, without materially increasing the cost of the building, shall be in charge of a commission composed of the Secretary of the Interior, the Architect of the Capitol Extension, and the Librarian of Congress, who shall be authorized and directed to make contracts for the construction thereof, after proper advertisements and the reception of bids ; and the sum of \$500,000 is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to commence the construction of said building ; and the moneys appropriated for said building shall be disbursed by the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 2. That in order to procure a suitable site for a building for the Library of Congress so much of the land situated east of the Capitol grounds above described shall be purchased by said commission, or taken for public use as hereinafter provided, and not less than the whole of that portion bounded on the north by B Street north, on the east by Second Street east, on the south by East Capitol Street, and on the west by First Street east ; or if that portion should not be so purchased or taken for public use, then the whole of that portion bounded on the north by East Capitol Street, on the east by Second Street east, on the south by B Street south, and on the west by First Street east ; and a sum of money sufficient to pay for said land, in the mode hereinafter provided, is hereby appropriated therefor out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 3. That said commission shall be authorized to purchase said land, or any part thereof, as soon as practicable, at such prices as may be fixed by agreement between said commission and the respective owners : *Provided, however,* That said commission shall not pay in the aggregate for the site aforesaid, including the whole of said land as described lying north of East Capitol Street, or the whole as described

lying south of East Capitol Street, more than \$550,000 ; and if they are not able to purchase the whole of either portion of said land, they may purchase any parcels thereof, for sums not exceeding, in their best judgment, that proportion of \$550,000 which the value of the parcel or parcels purchased bears to the value of the whole land ; and payment therefor shall be made to the respective owners, on the requisitions of the Secretary of the Interior, upon the release and conveyance of said land to the United States by good and sufficient deeds executed in due form of law : *And provided further,* That no money hereby appropriated shall be expended for the purchase of said land, or any part thereof, or for the erection thereon of said library building, until the written opinion of the Attorney-General shall be had in favor of the validity of the title to said land.

SEC. 4. That if said commission shall be unable to purchase the whole of said land lying north of East Capitol Street, or the whole of said land lying south of East Capitol Street, by agreement with the respective owners, within thirty days after the passage of this act, within the limitations prescribed by this act, they shall, at the expiration of such period of thirty days, make application to the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia at a general or special term, by petition containing a particular description of the property required, with the name of the owner or owners thereof, and his, her, or their residence, as far as the same can be ascertained, which court is hereby authorized and required, upon such application, without delay, to ascertain and assess the damages occasioned by the taking of said land to each owner thereof, or to any person having a legal claim to said damages, in the manner provided with reference to the taking of land for highways in the District of Columbia.

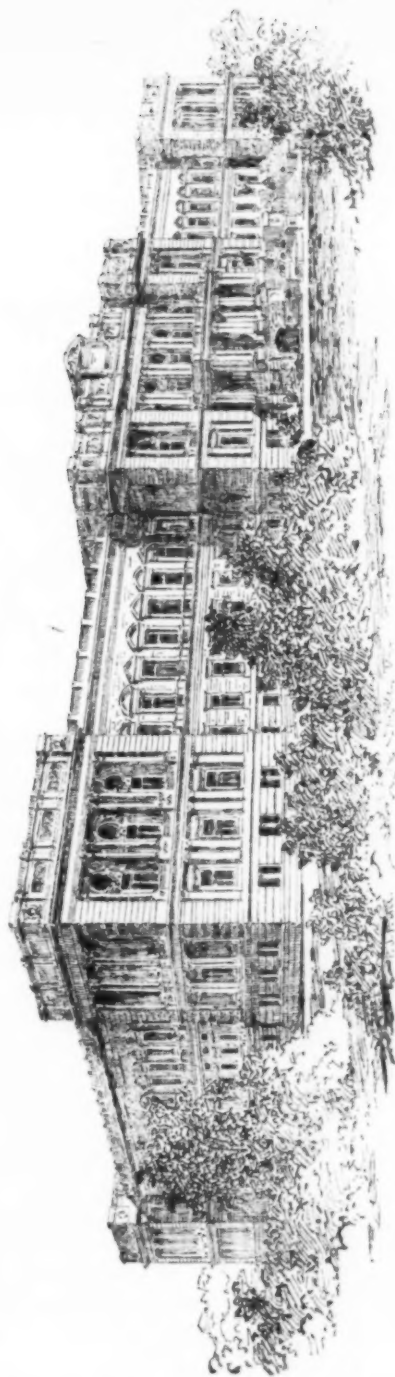
SEC. 5. That the fee-simple of all premises so appropriated for public use of which an appraisalment shall have been made under the order and direction of said court shall, upon payment to the owner or owners, respectively, or to such person as shall be authorized to receive the same for any such owners, of the appraised value, or in case the said owner or owners refuse or neglect for fifteen days after the appraisalment of the cash value of said lands and improvements by said court to demand the same from the Secretary of the Interior, upon depositing the said appraised value in said court to the credit of such owner or owners, respectively, be vested in the United States ; and said commission is hereby authorized and required to pay to the several owner or owners, respectively, or to such persons authorized as aforesaid, the appraised value of the several premises as specified in the appraisalment of said court, or pay into court, by deposit, as hereinbefore provided, the said appraised values.

SEC. 6. That said court may direct the time and manner in which possession of the property

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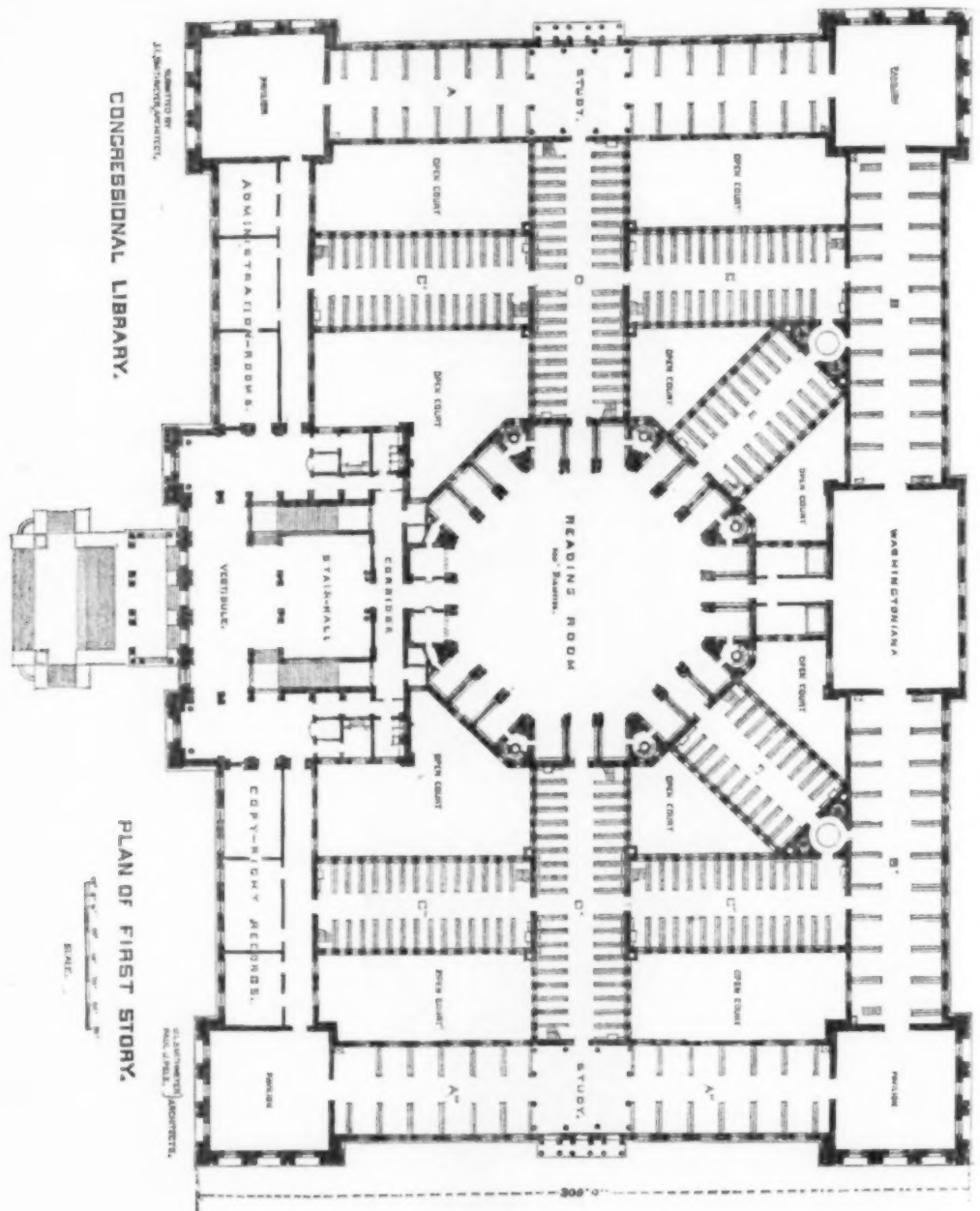
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CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY.

(ACCEPTED PLAN)

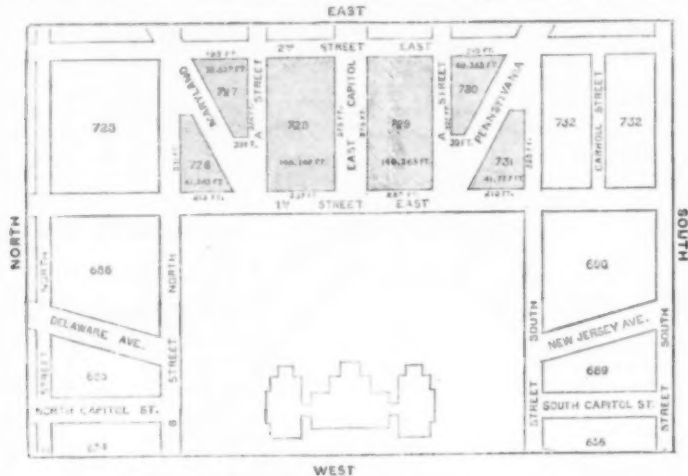


condemned shall be taken or delivered, and may, if necessary, enforce any order or issue any process for giving possession. The cost occasioned by the inquiry and assessment shall be paid by the United States; and as to other costs which may arise they shall be charged or taxed as the court may direct.

SEC. 7. That no delay in making an assessment of compensation, or in taking possession, shall be occasioned by any doubt which may arise as to the ownership of the property, or any part thereof, or as to the interests of the respec-

tive owners. In such cases the court shall require a deposit of the money allowed as compensation for the whole property or the part in dispute. In all cases, as soon as the United States shall have paid the compensation assessed, or secured its payment by a deposit of money under the order of the court, possession of the property may be taken.

SEC. 8. That the Secretary of the Interior shall annually report to Congress, at the commencement of each session, a detailed statement of all the proceedings under the provisions of this act.



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

Mr. Singleton, from the Committee on the Library, submitted the following report, to accompany bill H. R. 1297, which was referred to the committee on the whole, and ordered to be printed.

The condition of the Library of Congress in its present narrow, inconvenient, and totally inadequate quarters is such as to demand prompt action at the hands of Congress. The protection of valuable public property, and the necessities of Congress for the prompt service of its great collection of books, which can only find their highest utility when properly arranged and classified, alike require enlarged accommodations. The most casual visitor to the Library must admit that its present condition is deplorable. The Librarian reports that it contains shelf-room for less than 300,000 volumes in all, while the present collection considerably exceeds 500,000. The result is seen in books stowed rank behind rank, so that their titles are concealed instead of exhibited, in alcoves overflowing into every adjacent space and corridor, and in floors heaped high with books, pamphlets, musical compositions, and newspapers, from the ground floors of the Capitol to the attic. Besides this, nine dark and unventilated rooms in the crypts below the Capitol have been filled with books, until at length all further resources for

storage are exhausted. Meanwhile the collections grow apace, every year adding what would be deemed in most places a large library to the existing accumulation. There is no room for readers or for the Librarian's assistants, nor is there a single quiet place where a member of Congress can pursue his researches uninterrupted. Out of the hundreds of periodicals received, none can be filed in proper order from absolute want of space. The upper outlying story of the Library, which is not fire-proof, is filled with combustible material, embracing the most valuable files of American and foreign journals, reaching back more than a century, and is in daily peril from fire, which if once started would inflict irreparable damage. The confusion is such as necessarily to consume much time in finding books, and only the long experience of the attendants enables them to produce them at all.

This state of things, if continued, must still more obstruct the administration of the Library, and prove a serious hindrance to Congress in the proper discharge of its responsible duties. Whether the bill proposed by your committee furnishes the best means available to meet the emergency is a question which the committee propose briefly to consider.

The bill contemplates the erection of a separate

fire-proof building for the Library, upon ground lying immediately east from the Capitol, and contiguous thereto. Such a building, planned throughout for the purposes of a library, possesses some indisputable advantages over any other proposed method for enlarged library accommodations. Calculated in all its parts for the proper shelving and service of books, and for the requirements of the extensive and rapidly growing copyright business of the United States, such a separate building would embody superior security, accessibility, and practical convenience. The present Library has no reading room worthy of the name; the Library building proposed in the bill would have a reading-room as large as the rotunda of the Capitol, from which the alcoves of books would radiate in all directions, thus reducing the waste of time and space in the library service to a minimum. By the use of numerous lifts or elevators, the different stories of the Library edifice would be brought into close and quick connection. By abundant skylights and spacious inner courts, as well as by the fact that the four exterior walls of the Library would be pierced with numerous windows, there would be secured the best lighted library building in the world. By the most improved interior ventilation system, an equable temperature could be secured in the upper and lower stories alike, while long experience has demonstrated that neither proper light nor wholesome ventilation are attainable in the Capitol building.

That a separate building to contain the overflowing stores of the Library of the Government is a necessity which can no longer be avoided or properly postponed appears evident to the committee from the considerations following:

First, The law of growth of this Library (called by Mr. Jefferson in 1815 "the Library of the United States") requires for it greatly more space than is demanded by any other collection in the country. It alone is entitled to the deposit of books and other publications under the law of copyright. The well-known intellectual activity of the people has rendered and will render this source of acquisition increasingly large as the years roll on. The reports of the Librarian show that the entries of copyright have increased from 12,688 in 1871 to 25,274 in 1885. The number of copyright publications received annually averages over 40,000, which, although many of them are not books, require as much or more room for their preservation. This is exclusive of an annual growth of nearly 20,000 volumes from the various sources of purchase, donation, international and other exchanges, and deposits by the Smithsonian Institution in the Library. The collection, already numbering in 1886 543,441 volumes of books, besides 170,000 pamphlets, must soon reach a million. Like the great government libraries of Europe, which have long had the benefit of the copy tax, it holds and will maintain the highest rank in the country both in the extent and the value of its intellectual stores. Already it has reached a point where it can be said that there are only five larger libraries in the world. These are the National Library of France, with 2,300,000 volumes; the Library of the British Museum,

London, 1,500,000; the Imperial Public Library at St. Petersburg, 1,000,000; the Royal Library of Bavaria at Munich, 900,000, and the Royal Library of Germany at Berlin, 750,000. These great collections of literature are not only the pride and ornament of the countries which they represent—they are also of the highest utility to scholars and to the people. Through the stores of knowledge which they open to all comers, these national libraries stimulate and aid the creation of new works in literature and science, and contribute in a high degree to promote the public intelligence.

Second. The necessity of a separate building for the Library has been unanimously reported by five successive joint committees of Congress charged with the investigation of the subject since 1873, when it was first proposed. There has never been a dissenting voice or a report against it in these committees. Moreover, a special commission of experts, all of whom were architects, reported unanimously in 1880 that no enlargement of the Capitol could accommodate the Library even for a generation, but that a separate building was a necessity. These experts were Edward Clark, Architect of the Capitol, chairman; Mr. John L. Smithmeyer, of Washington; and Mr. Alexander Esty, of Boston.

The measurements of these architects, together with the figures of the steady growth of the collections reported by the Librarian, demonstrated that no possible enlargement of the Capitol which would be agreed to as feasible could possibly afford accommodation for more than a few years' increase, after which we should be confronted at last by the necessity of a separate building, after incurring all the cost of building on to the Capitol a costly annex of stone and iron, unfitted for any other purpose. Any enlargement of the Capitol which would accommodate the Library even as it stands, with room to arrange it, would cost much more than a separate building, because it must necessarily be constructed in the same costly style, with carved Corinthian architecture. Mr. Walter, the former Architect of the Capitol, estimated the cost of an extension of the west front at \$4,500,000. The present architect, Mr. Clark, estimates it to cost \$4,200,000, while the plan of a building adopted by the committee is to cost only \$2,323,600.

Third. In addition to the extensive and growing collection of books, this Library is made the permanent repository of all copyright publications of whatever character, many of which require for their proper storage and preservation even more room than volumes of books. These publications comprise engravings (both line and mezzotint), photographs, photogravures, lithographs, maps, chromos, prints, drawings, musical compositions, and periodicals of all descriptions. Among the many thousand specimens of graphic art which have accumulated in the Library during a few years' operation of the copyright law, and which now lie piled in heaps in dark places, from want of room in which to arrange or to exhibit them, the Librarian reports that there are the materials for an extensive gallery of art, which would furnish a most in-

structive exhibit of the progress of the arts of design in America. This is impossible to be provided for within the Capitol; but the plan of a building adopted in the bill provides for an art gallery on the second floor, having the ample dimensions of 300 feet by 35, in which these collections can be arranged and utilized for the promotion of the public taste.

The large collection of maps in the Library, numbering about 9000, now almost inaccessible, would be provided with a special hall where they could be arranged in geographical divisions, and made to contribute for the first time to the promotion of knowledge.

Several other methods of relief from the inconvenience and obstructions which beset the existing Library have been proposed, to avoid the construction of a separate building, and it is here proper for the committee to consider these in their order.

(1) It is proposed to enlarge the Capitol upon the western front by building a long series of rooms projected from the main building, and connected therewith by corridors at certain points. This plan contemplates practically a new building at a lower elevation than the Capitol. It would increase the existing difficulties of administration of the Library, by spreading it out into remote and widely separated apartments, greatly enhancing the time and labor required to produce books to a given centre, and is moreover fraught with difficulties as to light and ventilation deemed by the committee to be formidable, if not insuperable. Another plan proposed has been an extension of the west front of the centre of the building, of equal height with the Capitol, and uniform therewith; while still another plan proposes a great extension of the eastern central building, far in advance of the wings, so as to make the Capitol resemble in form a Greek cross. Either one of these plans would relieve the Library for a very few years at most, while their great cost (between four and five millions of dollars, as estimated by trustworthy architects), together with the fact that they would make a conglomerate pile out of what is now a purely classical building, furnish, in the judgment of the committee, conclusive objections to the adoption of either plan.

(2) The suggestion has been made that all that is needed is a cheap storehouse for the overflowing material of the Library; that the publications accumulated by copyright are mostly trash, useless for reading or reference, and should be stored or colonized in some other part of the city, leaving in the existing Library only the books which some unknown authority should assume to be of the most use and value. The Librarian, however, reports that experience has shown the necessity of having the entire collections kept together; that daily, and sometimes hourly, calls are made for books and other publications of every possible description acquired under the copyright laws; and that it is impossible to foresee at what moment those owning copyrights or interested therein may require to see any piece of literary or artistic property. Authors and publishers, and their attorneys, frequent the

Library, and copyright publications, whether distributed as books with others of similar subject-matter, or stored in the copyright archives, must be produced at a moment's warning. The committee are therefore of the opinion that the proposition to divide up the Library collections, and to segregate or colonize large portions of them, would be an improper and most inconvenient arrangement. Congress is bound by its own legislation to protect and provide ample space for all copyright publications. They are a trust under the law, and cannot properly be scattered, any more than the models at the Patent Office, which are to be preserved as exhibits of the inventive art of the country, just as the books, engravings, etc., deposited in evidence of copyright, are exhibits of its intellectual activity.

(3) It has been proposed, and seriously urged in some quarters, to repeal the statutes by which the law of growth of this Library is fixed, to stop the further deposit of books and other copyright publications, and to confine the library rigidly to the actual wants of Congress for use and reference. The committee cannot concur in the expediency of this view, because the Government of the United States is too far committed by the legislation of Congress to the encouragement of literature and the fine arts through a system of copyright; because any supposed limitation which should fix the wants of the national legislature for books and information by any arbitrary standard is fallacious and impossible; and because to arrest the progress of this great repository of learning (more than half of which has been gathered without expense to the tax-payers) would be a step backward. If, as has been well said by a great writer, the chief glory of a nation is its literature, any proposition to divide up or diminish the great Library already gathered, or to curtail its growth in the future, is unworthy of a nation claiming to hold a front rank in civilization.

It remains to consider briefly the plan for a Library building and the site proposed by the bill which has been adopted by your committee. It proposes a building of ample dimensions, to hold ultimately three million books, measuring 450 feet by 300, and covering about 2.9 acres of ground.* The style of architecture is of the

* BOOK CAPACITY OF LIBRARY.

First Story—(two tiers high).			
4	Repositories marked A, A', A", A'''—with Alcoves	184,520 books.	
2	" " " " " " " " " " " "	138,240 "	
4	" " " " " " " " " " " "	430,080 "	
2	" " " " " " " " " " " "	277,480 "	
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			1,168,560 books.

Second Story—(three tiers high).			
2	Repositories marked A, A', A", A'''—with 3-story stacks	708,000 books.	
2	" " " " " " " " " " " "	468,000 "	
4	" " " " " " " " " " " "	484,800 "	
2	" " " " " " " " " " " "	311,640 "	
2	" " " " " " " " " " " "	155,520 "	
			2,126,400 "
			1,168,560 "
			250,000 "

Reading Room—with Alcoves
3,544,560 books.

Exclusive of newspaper files, music in sheets, unbound pamphlets, etc., in basement, and exclusive of the corner pavilions, the Washingtoniana and the exhibit halls, for the graphic and fine arts, in 2d story of which 2—are 35 x 108 feet, 2—are 24 x 90 feet, 4—are 35 x 75 feet, each 20 feet high, making a total of 471 feet.

Italian renaissance order, carefully and economically adapted in all its parts to the purposes of a Government Library, and with interior arrangements approved by the Librarian. The building is designed to be of stone in the exterior and of iron and concrete in the interior, entirely fire-proof in all its parts. It is a pleasing and sufficiently ornate edifice, without extravagance, and will be entirely in harmony with the Capitol. That this proposed building is none too large for the destined wants of the collection is proven by a few figures which follow.

The area covered by the building of the British Museum is 5 acres; area of the National Library of France, at Paris, $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres; area of the Capitol building, $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres; area of the proposed National Library, 2.9 acres.

The proposed building, as stated, will contain 3,000,000 volumes, with suitable economy of storage. It is not designed to fit up the whole interior at once with iron shelving, but to introduce it gradually, finishing off the central portions, rotunda, and connecting rooms, and the entire exterior structure. The chief element of cost is in the iron alcoves of the interior, and in a building so extensive these may be finished in successive years, as wanted for the increase of books. The most carefully guarded estimates of cost contemplate an expenditure of only \$500,000 the first year, about \$1,000,000 the second, and \$800,000 the third, which will complete the building for occupancy in all its parts, sufficient for shelving one million books, and leaving space for the gradual introduction of additional iron alcoves in the coming fifty years, the ultimate gross cost of which will not exceed \$700,000, or an average of less than \$14,000 a year. When it is considered that the copyright fees paid into the Treasury amount to over \$20,000 a year, while the pecuniary value of copyright publications received annually is very much greater than this, the expenditure will appear moderate in comparison with the great resulting benefits and the national importance of the work.

As to the site provided for in the bill, the committee have given to the subject careful consideration, and have compared it with other proposed locations. They find that it combines the requisites of vicinity to the Capitol, salubrity, elevation of site, and desirable surroundings, to a greater degree than any other. It is perfectly level, requiring no expenditure for grading, or extra cost in preparing foundations. Its elevation makes the site perfectly dry, which is a cardinal point in providing for a great national library to last for centuries. The proposed site is the nearest eligible ground to the Capitol that can be had. None of the squares north or south of the Capitol are at all suitable for a building so large and massive as the Library structure, being in a line with an architectural edifice of such magnitude, besides the serious objection that they are on a side hill, thus greatly increasing the cost of the building.

The committee have sought to ascertain whether it is not possible to secure a good location upon grounds already owned by the Govern-

ment; and were any such site to be had, they would unhesitatingly recommend it in preference to a purchase of land. The late Commissioner (Colonel Rockwell) of Public Buildings and Grounds has testified before the committee in detail as to each and all the public reservations in Washington. He gives it as his judgment that there is no open space now in Government possession which is in itself suited to the location of a Library building, unless Congress is willing to destroy absolutely some one of the parks now open as breathing spaces and resorts for the people.

The proposal to locate the Library building on a Government reservation would send it to a place remote from the Capitol, inconvenient to members, and would destroy some open park now essential to the health and ventilation of the city. Or else it would place it on low ground, totally unfit for a Government building intended for the preservation of books, which must be carefully kept out of reach of moisture.

In view of these facts, the committee see no proper course open, since ground must be had somewhere for a Library building, but to purchase the most eligible ground near the Capitol, if at a price deemed reasonable. The limitation in the bill, \$550,000 for the three squares bounded by North B and East Capitol streets and by First and Second streets east, has been deemed a safe limit, just to the Government on the one hand, and to the property-holders on the other. It embraces 226,137 square feet, to which is to be added about 270,000 square feet now occupied by the intersecting streets running through it, which would cost nothing, as they already belong to the public. The taxed valuation, six years ago, was about \$360,000, and it is well known that taxed values in all the States and Territories are fixed far below market values. Comparing the cost of the land with what has been paid in other cities for Government buildings, we find that for the site of the post-office in Philadelphia we paid \$1,491,201; at Chicago, \$1,259,385; at Boston, \$1,329,096; at Baltimore, \$553,500, and at Cincinnati, \$708,036. The bill provides a carefully guarded process of condemnation, if the space needed is not secured at a ratio of price deemed reasonable by the Secretary of the Interior.

Regarding the question of removal of the Library, and the convenience of supplying books from its proposed site to the Capitol, the committee report that wherever it be located it is proposed to retain the existing central library room, containing about 70,000 volumes, such as experience has shown to be most needed as a Library for daily use and reference. Any calls for authorities beyond these can be supplied from the main Library, through the use of the telephone, in from five to six minutes, or about the time now occupied by the pages in procuring books for members of the Senate or the House, respectively.

Additional force is given to the arguments for a new Library building in the fact that the removal of the Library from the two wings would

vacate space which would give to the Senate and House from fifteen to twenty new committee-rooms, now so urgently needed; or the document and folding rooms as well as the file rooms of both houses might be removed to these wings, already fitted with iron fire-proof shelving, thus vacating for committee-rooms all the spaces occupied by these offices.

The committee unanimously recommend the passage of the bill herewith reported.

Library Economy and History.

BLACKALL, C. H. Munich, the Royal Library. (In *Amer. architect*, Dec. 19, p. 291.)

With plans of the Royal Libraries at Stuttgart and Munich. "The people of Munich might learn a great deal from their neighbors in Wurtemberg. The Royal Library at Stuttgart is one of the pleasantest places in which to read in all Germany. The collection numbers barely 360,000 volumes, but the catalogue is so full and so admirably arranged, both by topics and by names of authors, that all of the books are at the reader's command. The reading-room is carpeted and upholstered in a style to suit the most fastidious, and is amply provided with comfortable chairs, book-rests, pens, ink, and blotters. The regulations regarding the use of books are most generous, allowing them to be consulted freely at the library or taken out for a number of days, and the porter is conveniently allowed to deliver books at the homes of the readers without personal application by them."

CLUSS & SCHULZE, *architects*. Medical Library and Museum, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C. (In *Amer. architect*, Jan. 16.)
View and plan.

RAEMY, *l'abbé C.* Les bibliothèques populaires : conférence donnée à la Grenette, 11 mars 1884, sous les auspices de la Soc. Écon. et d'Utilité Pub. Fribourg, imprimerie Galley, 1884. 39 p. 8°.

REPORTS.

Brussels. *Bibliothèque Royale*. Open in summer 6, in winter 5 hours daily for 295 days in the year. Visits in 1883, 21,990; in 1884, 22,438 persons, who gave 37,252 orders for books, of which History and Science-and-arts each had more than a quarter.

Silas Bronson L., *Waterbury, Conn.* (16th rpt.) Added, 1660; total, 34,181 v. and 3914 pm.; issued, 64,672. The report sketches the history of previous Waterbury libraries.

Springfield (Mass.) City L. A. (For year ending May 4, 1885.) Added, 2113; total, 50,960; issued, 59,581. The report contains a history of the Association. \$15,000 have been added to the endowment fund.

NOTES.

Albany. The N. Y. *Evening Post* for Jan. 26 had a 1½ column letter from Albany, giving an

account of the private libraries there, especially those of the Hon. N. C. Moak and ex-Judge S. Hand.

Baltimore. *The American*, Jan. 9, says: "Aside from the interest now felt in Philadelphia in the proposal to establish a free public circulating library, our attention is attracted by the important enterprise of that sort just inaugurated in Baltimore. The formal opening of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, in that city, took place on the 4th inst., and the plans of Mr. Pratt, which had been four years in maturing, were crowned by an ovation at the hands of the people to whose use he dedicated much of his time and wealth. Mr. Pratt in 1882 offered to erect a main library building at a cost of \$225,000, which, with the sum of \$833,333.33, he would convey to the city of Baltimore, on consideration of which the city should pay annually to a Board of Trustees \$50,000 for the support of the Library. Later on it was determined to put up four and provide for a fifth branch library, and for this purpose Mr. Pratt gave \$50,000, while he also added \$25,000 to the Main Building fund, making the full amount of his gift almost one million and a half of dollars.

"The Library opens with the comparatively modest number of 32,000 well-selected volumes, 19,000 of which are in the main building, (which has accommodation for 210,000 volumes), and the rest in the branches. The number of books will be increased yearly by the expenditure of the sum left out of the income after the payment of running expenses. This is a simple, but a not uninteresting statement of how to start a great public library. The attention to details in buildings, appointment, cataloguing, selection of books, etc., the freedom and yet the safeguards thrown about registration, are all matters of importance, but the simple lesson which Philadelphia should be willing to learn from Baltimore this time is that care, forethought, and wise expenditure of much money is needed to establish a Free Library. The rule of three is by no means to be held in the veneration with which Arithmetic and schoolmasters have invested it, but the problem this time will look suggestive: If one and a half millions of dollars is needed to establish a Free Library for a city containing 400,000 inhabitants, how much will be needed to establish an equally good library for a city containing a million inhabitants?"

Constantinople. Mr. T. C. Robinson writes to *The Times*, Dec. 8: "Another of these Kiosks, an octagonal dome-shaped building of no great size, contains the Sultan's ancient library. Perhaps the books, some 2000 or 3000 in number, all in ms., have been critically examined by competent authorities, perhaps not. I could get no certain information on this point. It is said, at any rate, that some 40 or 50 mss. from the library of Mathias Corvinus are still among them. The dumb-looking tomes are all enveloped in outer leather cases, and they are

arranged in vertical piles one upon another, not in horizontal rows. Once upon a time this room full of books was the cynosure of all the learned men in the world, for there was a rooted belief that this was the veritable library of the old Byzantine Emperors, which had escaped the destruction of all things precious and beautiful at the taking of Constantinople. Here, if anywhere, it was supposed, were the inedited Classics of Greece and Rome, complete and all eloquent, ready to burst their very bindings with desire to speak again to the modern world. The Lorenzos and Politians, the Bembo and Scaligeri fretted and fumed and yearned to solve this mystery, but in their days no Christian footsteps could enter these precincts. Even Louis of France, the great be-periwigged, and his forty immortals failed ignominiously when they tried 200 years ago to get access to these renowned books. I fear, however, all this was but a brightly-tinted bubble which swelled till it burst, or perhaps it may have lasted till some mere peripatetic book-hunter picked it furtively in our own time, for it is now, at least, understood that there are no inedited classic manuscripts in the Sultan's library, nor any remains of the old Byzantine Palace books. Probably there are well-informed book-lovers who could let us know what there really is of value in this famous repository. For myself, I saw the outer husks and bindings only.

Dedham (Mass.) P. L. (14th rpt.) Added, 465, of which 98 were given; issued, 21,179; spent, \$2377.04.

Florence. As the Biblioteca Magliabecchiana now Nazionale needs a new building the municipal authorities have offered a good piece of ground to the state for that purpose. Hope is expressed that the Laurenziana with its unrivalled manuscript collection will be put in the same fireproof building.

New York Historical Society.—The Society is trying to obtain by subscription a fund sufficient for the purchase of a site and the erection of a suitable building. The removal of most of the members to an inconvenient distance from the present edifice demands a new site, and from the unexampled accumulation of the collections in all departments and the impossibility of their satisfactory arrangement in the present one, a new and larger building has become an absolute necessity; \$100,000 for the proposed object has been deposited by a generous friend of the society with the Central Trust Company, subject to the condition that the further sum of \$300,000 shall be secured within two years from November 30, 1885. The Historical Society is eminently a public institution. Its membership is within the reach of every citizen, and access to its collections is denied to none. The number, character, and value of these collections are well known.

Philadelphia Mercantile Library.—At the meeting held February 16, 477 persons voted for the six directors to serve three years, with the following result:

	VOTES.
Richard Wood	478
T. Morris Perot	475
Edward Hays	474
Nathaniel E. Jenney	473
Charles Henry Hart	472
Joseph Mason	464

Mr. Morris Perot is reported in the *North American* as having said concerning the prosperity of the library: "Since the present board was inaugurated we have increased the membership from 1800 to 5000. Then there were 22,000 volumes in the library, and now there are 152,000. Then the property was worth \$75,000; now \$500,000, and it is clear of debt."

Wolfenbüttel. The new building for the Herzogliche Bibliothek is nearly completed. It is about 53 metres long and 34 m. broad, inclosing two courts, which are separated by a central building 13 m. wide.

The *Centralblatt* announces that "under the presidency of Melvil Dervy a library club has been formed in New York."

PRACTICAL NOTES.

COURSES OF READING.—"Why not read when you're hungry, just as you eat? Shouldn't you hate to take up a course of roast beef, or a course of turkey?"—*Howell's Indian summer.*

INTERLIBRARY BORROWING.—In the Italian "Regolamento per le biblioteche pubbliche governative" is a blank form, enabling a reader in any library to obtain books from any other, so that a scholar sojourning or residing for instance at Florence may have access to any desired book contained in the public libraries of Palermo, Venice, or Milan.

READING.—The *Spectator*, reviewing Lord Idesleigh's "Desultory reading," brings forward an omitted point. "Reading," it says, "without a purpose except reading, without a hope of learning much or benefiting much in any way, kills hours which otherwise would hang heavy on hand, and which in their heaviness would produce, or at least develop, both the disposition and the opportunities for mischief."

SHELVING.—The last report of the Bibliothèque Nationale has materials for an estimate of the average space occupied by volumes. It possesses 1,923,562 volumes on 5232 metres of shelving for folios, 5298 for quartos, 23,494 for octavos, in all 34,024; in other words, each volume requires 1.76 linear centimetres. The folios fill 15.3 per cent of the shelving, and the quartos 15.5. The total number of volumes mentioned above does not include the duplicates, nor the books placed at the disposition of the public in the Public Hall, in the Geographical Section, and in the three Manuscript Departments. Moreover, pieces bound together are counted as one volume. Therefore, M. Delisle considered that the total number of "pieces," that is, of volumes and pamphlets independent of binding, is at least 2,200,000.

DIRECTIONS FOR BINDERS.—The Library

Bureau issues a convenient slip, giving the following specifications for binding :

Binding No.		
Volumes	at	Total Price
	COLOR	
1. Light Brown	6. Olive	
2. Dark Brown	7. Light Green	
3. Black	8. Dark Green	
39. Dark Blue	91. Light Blue	
4. Red	92. Yellow	
5. Maroon	93-99. Light Drab.	
	STYLE	
1/2 Goat	1/2 Roan	1/2 Skiver
	SIZE	
T	S	D
	O	Q
	F	F

Follow exactly arrangement of lines, punctuation, lettering, as on back of this slip, and general directions as sent in writing.

On the back of this slip, which is 5 x 3 inches in size, are printed 4 lines, each an inch apart, so that by means of the pin spaces, the back stamping may be shown in its proper position between the bands.

The numbers printed against the colors are the distinguishing numerals of the Dewey color-classification system, and they are assigned according to Mr. Dewey's paper on colors in *Binding read at the Lake George Conference*. The translation of the numbers is :

1. American	6. Spanish
2. English	7. Latin
3. German	8. Greek
39. Minor Teutonic	91. Minor Indo-European
4. French	92. Semitic
5. Italian	93-99. Minor Languages.

CONVERSATION CARDS.—The Library Bureau has prepared a neat card, which may be found useful for quietly handing to obstreperous readers. The card is printed on both sides, and reads as follows :

Readers demand quiet, therefore

CONVERSATION

Even in low Low Tones is

STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

We are required to enforce the rules by personal appeal, if necessary, and readers and visitors will spare us this unpleasant duty by

STRICTLY OBSERVING THEM.

Please Step Lightly in any necessary moving about the room.

These rules are made wholly in the interests of readers, for whom the library is glad to do anything to aid or accommodate. Experiment proves that without them confusion steadily increases, till no satisfactory study can be done in the room, and its usefulness is largely destroyed. The attendants are held responsible for quiet, and however unpleasant the duty, must exclude readers or visitors who refuse or neglect to comply with these necessary rules.

On the reverse is printed :

RULE 21. Silence and decorum shall be strictly observed in the Reading Room.

The use of tobacco, carrying lighted cigars in halls, wearing the hat, sitting on tables, putting the feet in

chairs or window seats, piling coats and hats on tables, scattering papers on the floor, drumming with fingers or feet, conversation even in whispers, or any act that might annoy other readers, is a breach of the strict decorum imposed by this rule.

The chief causes of noise are walking heavily on the bare floors and studying together.

Whispering specially annoys many readers. For any conversation whatever beyond mere necessary questions asked of librarians in the lowest audible tones, all readers or visitors must retire to the Loan Room side of the central curtain or to the corridors where seats are provided, and talking in low tones does not violate the rights of others.

Bags must be checked at the entrance.

Umbrellas, canes, packages, hats and overcoats (unless to be worn) should also be checked, thus avoiding danger of loss and unsightly appearances. They are not allowed on the Reading Room tables.

INDELIBLE STAMPS.—The French Minister of Public Instruction has ordered the public librarians to stamp their books and manuscripts with an indelible stamp capable of resisting all chemical action. Inspectors had reported that many librarians neglected this stamping, urging in excuse that it injured engravings and manuscripts. The Minister says that if done carefully it does no injury, and that, even if it did, it has such great advantages that it ought to be practised.

Librarians.

DEARBORN. Edmund Batchelder Dearborn, librarian of the N. E. Historic-Genealogical Society, Boston, from 1846 to 1848 or 9, died recently aged 79.

HANSON. Mrs. Virginia Hanson has been nominated for reëlection as state librarian of Kentucky. So well has that excellent lady performed her official duties, says the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, that her nomination and reëlection follow as a matter of course.

KERSHAW. T. W. Kershaw, librarian of Lambeth Palace, has published "Protestants from France in their English home, London, 1885."

LEPSIUS. The *Neuer Anzeiger* for Sept. 1884, p. 275-7, quoted from G. Ebers's *Life of R. Lepsius* an account of his administration of the Berlin Library, which he undertook in 1873. Ebers speaks very highly of the reforms which Lepsius introduced.

POUPEL. Alfred Poupel, sub-librarian emeritus of the city of Paris, died last Dec., aged 57. He was at first a bookseller, but as he could rarely prevail upon himself to sell any of his beloved books and engravings he did not find the business profitable. A situation as assistant in a library was evidently more suitable. Here he remained till 1883, when he resigned his post, and almost entirely paralyzed during his last years, was fortunate enough to find friends to read to him the books which he could no longer see.

RANDALL.—Mr. J. K. Randall, librarian of the Baltimore, Md., Mercantile Library, committed suicide, February 8, by shooting himself through the heart. It is plain that the suicide was caused by blighted affection, although the fact that his father, Dr. Burton Randall, of the U. S. Army, had been in the insane asylum for years, leads many to believe that there is a touch of hereditary

insanity in the case. Mr. Randall was a native of Annapolis, but had resided in Baltimore a number of years. He was graduated at St. John's College and was a member of the Bar. He was about 32 years old. He had a law office on St. Paul Street, but never cared particularly for the practice of law, but was devoted to the study of literature. He was a man of wide reading and scholarly tastes, which led him into the study of almost every branch of literature. He was a great collector of old books, and the library which he had gathered together had in it many rare and curious volumes. His fondness for collecting curiosities, however, did not end with books. Every species of bric-à-brac, pictures, and, above all, firearms of every description had an interest for him. A singular coincidence is that at 11 o'clock the same day a dispatch was received at the Mercantile Library, addressed to Mr. Randall, announcing the death of his father in the Government Hospital at Washington. The father, Dr. Burton Randall, had been an army surgeon since 1832. He was retired in 1868, and had been in the asylum ever since.

Catalogs and Classification.

FAVIER, J. La Bibliothèque d'un maître-échevin de Metz au commencement du 16^e siècle, inventaire annoté. Nancy, Sidot frères, 1885. 21 p. 12.

ITALY. MINISTERO DELLA PUB. ISTRUZIONE. Indici e cataloghi. 1-3. Roma, 1885. 3 v. 8".

The 1st of the series is "Pubblicazioni periodiche, 1884" (22+316 p.). It contains (1) an alphabetical list of periodicals in the public libraries of Italy, with abbreviations showing which libraries take each one; (2) a classed index to this; (3) a list of the literary societies, etc. whose journals, etc. appear in (1); (3) a topographical index of places of publication; (4) an index of editors; (5) eight statistical tables. A * prefixed to the sign of any library indicates that the collection in that is incomplete. The work is most thoroughly planned, and no doubt is carefully done. The scholars of Italy are to be envied the possession of such a tool.

The 2d catalog is "Manoscritti fosciani già proprietà Martelli della R. Bib. Naz. di Firenze." (11+66 p.)

The 3d is "Disegni di architettura nella R. Galleria degli Uffizi in Firenze." (48+231 p.)

LIB. ASSOC. OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. Katalogisierungs-Regeln. (In *Neuer Anzeiger*, June, 1885, p. 166-72.)

The rules, with notes by a German.

NOTES.

THE PHILA. LIB. CO.'s bulletin for January contains "Contributions toward a bibliography of the Civil War in the United States, I. Regimental histories, by G. Maurice Abbott" (pp. 30), which has been also separately issued.

THE catalogue of the maps in the BRITISH MUSEUM, compiled and printed for the first time under the superintendence of Professor Douglas, is spoken of by the London *Publishers' circular* as "a colossal work." It is contained in two large volumes of over 2000 pages, and has more than 90,000 entries, including, of course, cross-references. It includes not only a vast collection of maps produced in Europe, but also a considerable number of Indian, Chinese, and Japanese maps; and it abounds with priceless treasures.

BOLTON'S CATALOGUE OF SCIENTIFIC PERIODICALS—A CORRECTION.

IN your notice of my "Catalogue of scientific and technical periodicals" is an error (typographical?). You say (p. 381), "The check-list shows in what American libraries 2150 of the 2190 periodicals recorded here can be found."

This is doubly misleading; my catalogue contains 5105 titles; therefore only about one half of my titles were found in American libraries.

I regret that the "check-list" is so incomplete and imperfect. The Smithsonian sent circulars to 200 librarians once, twice, thrice, and only 120 responded; of these about 75 per cent did their work well, but some important libraries are not represented. I wish greatly a second edition of the check-list could be prepared.

H. CARRINGTON BOLTON.

Gifts and Bequests.

BEBBINGTON, *Cheshire, Eng.* Joseph Mayer, F. S. A., a famous English archaeologist, numismatist, floriculturist, author, and philanthropist, who died Jan. 21, nearly 83 years old, gave during his life to the village of Bebbington a free public library building furnished with over 20,000 volumes. The building is situated in a lot of nearly six acres, and is surrounded with specimens of every flowering shrub that will live in the climate. It was in this village, in Mr. Mayer's hot-water tanks, under the superintendence of Henry Boyle, M. A., that the Victoria Regia was first brought to flower beneath the open sky.

HAVERHILL. A portrait of Whittier, by Harrison Plummer, was presented by his classmates to the public library on his 78th birthday, Dec. 17.

LONDON. The National Liberal Club has received a bequest of the most valuable portion of the library of the Rev. W. J. Copeland, the lifelong friend of Cardinal Newman.

ROCHESTER, N. Y. Mr. Hiram Sibley has presented to the Reynolds Library eight vellum-bound folio volumes of Italian architectural works, fully illustrated, and published in the first half of the present century.

ROME. An Italian, who wishes to remain unknown, has given to the Ministry of Public Instruction 60,000 volumes on the history and laws of the Italian communes. When a catalog is compiled the collection will be opened to the public.

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- MAYO, O. H. Bibliotheca Dorsetensis; account of printed books and pamphlets relating to the history and topography of Dorset. [London,] the author, 1885. 10 + 296 p. 4". 13 sh.
- MEYER, W. Bücheranzeigen des 15. Jahrhunderts. (In *Centralbl. f. Bib.*, Nov. 1885, p. 437-463.)
An interesting account of the early booksellers' catalogs. A facsimile of a broadside catalog is given.
- OESTERLEY, H. Wegweiser durch die Literatur der Urkundensammlungen. 1. Theil. Berlin, G. Reimer, 1885. 5 + 574 p. 8". 12 m.
- SCUDDER, Newton Pratt. Published writings of Isaac Lea, LL.D. Wash. Gov. Pr. Off., 1885. 59 + 278 p. + Portrait. O. (Bibliog. of Amer. naturalists, 2. Bulletin 23 of the U. S. National Museum.)
- Very thorough work. The "List of species discussed" fills p. 173-273.
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NOTES.

Ceylon. A carefully-compiled bibliography of writers on Ceylon, prepared by Messrs. D.W. and W. Ferguson, will be published in the forthcoming edition of *Ferguson's Ceylon Handbook*.

Cocker. Mr. H. B. Wheatley gave a bibliography of Cocker, the arithmetician, in *Bibliographer* for July, 1885, p. 25-30.

Orientalia. Trübner's American, European, and Oriental Literary Record began in 1885, an "Index to articles relating to Oriental subjects in current political literature."

Swiss Fauna. Dr. F. A. FOREL'S "La faune profonde des lacs suisses," Bâle, H. Georg, 1885, 4". contains "a long bibliographical list." — *Nature*, p. 195.

University publications. The Prussian Minister of Education has directed that printed lists of university publications shall be issued annually by the Royal Library at Berlin, about Oct. 1, and covering the year ending Aug. 15. The *Centralblatt f. Bib.* expresses the wish that such a list might be published for all the German universities.

17 SETS ONLY

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